TRANSVAAL.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RELATING TO

LABOUR IN THE TRANSVAAL MINES.

(*In continuation of* [*Cd.* 2183.])

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
April, 1905.

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1905.

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64	Governor Viscount Milner.	—	March 27 (Rec. Apr. 15.)	Reports that the number of white labourers employed in the Witwatersrand gold mines on December 31st, 1904, on work which before the war was done by Kaffirs was 772; observes that the supply of white labourers has been very fluctuating, the men declining to work for any length of time.	97

Serial No.	From or to whom.	——	Date.	Subject.	Page.
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65	Lieutenant-Governor Sir A. Lawley.	Telegram 5.	April 22 (Rec. Apr. 22.)	Reports total number of persons employed in the gold mines of the Transvaal on March 31st.	98
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TRANSVAAL.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RELATING TO

LABOUR IN THE TRANSVAAL MINES.

No. 1.

MR. LYTTELTON to GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER.

[*Answered by No. 7.*]

MY LORD, Downing Street, May 28, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the accompanying copies of a question by Mr. H. Samuel in the House of Commons, and of my reply, with regard to the duties and qualifications of the inspectors of the Transvaal Native Affairs Department.

2. I should be glad to be furnished with a report on the qualifications of the inspectors, and as to the means by which the natives employed on the mines are enabled to recognize them. As to this latter point, I have to refer you to pp. 26 and 30 of [Cd. 2025].

I have, &c.,
ALFRED LYTTELTON.

Enclosure in No. 1.

House of Commons, May 18, 1904.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether "his attention has been drawn to the fact that the tables appended to the report of the Transvaal Native Affairs Department, dated 31st March, 1904, show, under the heading Vigilance, that the inspectors of that department, in a period of two years, took action in 13 cases of ill-treatment suffered by native labourers employed at the mines, and in 28 cases of complaints of labourers with reference to wages, while in the same period they dealt with 3,341 cases of offences committed, or alleged to be committed, by native labourers; whether these inspectors are appointed mainly for the purpose of protecting the natives; and if he can state whether all the inspectors are acquainted with the languages chiefly used by the natives or are accompanied by interpreters, and whether there is any means by which the labourers are enabled to recognise an inspector."

MR. LYTTELTON, in reply, said: "The figures given are approximately correct. The duties of inspectors are described at pages 62 and 145 of [Cd. 2025],

and page 20 of [Cd. 904], and page 186 of [Cd. 1551], and it will be seen that the definition of these duties has been made as wide as possible in order that the inspector may be able to 'go into all questions affecting the comfort, health, and happiness of natives employed in the mines, and to afford them opportunities of consulting him or of stating grievances.' I am not aware of the precise qualification of the inspectors, or how they are recognised; but I have little doubt that they are well-known to the labourers. I will, however, make enquiry on the point. The importance of a knowledge of the language is fully recognised by the Transvaal Government and Sir Godfrey Lagden."

No. 2.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received 8.30 p.m., July 29, 1904.)

TELEGRAM.

July 29. No. 3. "Ikbal" arrived Durban 27th July with 1,970 indentured labourers for Rand. Four slight cases of illness among them, no deaths.

New Comet Mine started crushing yesterday, being first mill to recommence operations as a direct result of importation of Chinese labour.

No. 3.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received July 30, 1904.)

[*Answered by No.* 4.]

SIR, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, July 8, 1904.

IN continuation of my despatch of the 21st March last,* I have the honour to forward a copy of Schedule No. 2 and Schedule No. 3, compiled by the Transvaal Chamber of Mines, containing further replies from various mining companies on the subject of the health and treatment of their native employés.

These schedules are supplementary to that which formed the second enclosure to my despatch under reference.

I have, &c.,
MILNER,
Governor.

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* No. 11 in [Cd. 2025].

Enclosure 1 in No. 3.

THE TRANSVAAL CHAMBER OF MINES, JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA.

SUMMARY OF ADDITIONAL REPLIES RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO CHAMBER'S CIRCULAR No. $\frac{4}{04}$ *re* HEALTH AND TREATMENT OF NATIVES.—DIET, HOUSING, ETC., OF NATIVES ON MEMBERS' PROPERTIES.

N.B.—These replies are additional to those contained in Schedule No. 1 which was sent to you on March 11th, 1904.

Name of Company.	PRÉCIS OF REPLIES.					Remarks.
	Para. 4. SANITATION AND WATER SUPPLY.	Para. 5. OPEN STOVES.	Para. 6. DIET.	Para. 7. HOUSING.	Para. 8. HOSPITAL.	
Cassel Coal Co., Ltd. (Landau Mine).	Inspector approves of sanitation and water supply, which are excellent.	Hope to adopt stove recommended.	Mealie meal, twice daily; vegetables, three times per week; meat, once per week; coffee, sugar and milk, daily. Sick boys receive special diet.	150 cubic feet of space per native on full complement, but only half complement at present employed. Floors of ant-heap. Kraal for natives with families.	Of brick, plastered throughout, ceiling lined, cement floor, well ventilated. Suspects are put into tents apart from any buildings.	
Cinderella Deep, Ltd.	—	—	Considers recommendations excessive. Improvements have been made which are highly appreciated by the natives. 2 lbs. meat per week, 1½ lbs. vegetables per week. Company grows and crushes its own mealies.	Present compound is not satisfactory.	Present hospital is not satisfactory. Native police boy as hospital attendant. Disinfection in accordance with doctors' report. No provision for isolation of dangerous infectious diseases. Hospital returns kept.	
Ginsberg G. M. Co., Ltd.	Buckets emptied three times per week. Two police boys underground. Water from Johannesburg Water Works.	Laundry pattern, with stove through the roof being now erected.	Two meals daily; 1¼ lbs. meat per boy per week. Good supply of fresh vegetables of sorts. Mealie meal ad lib.	Compound extension being completed, allowing 160 cubic feet air space per native. Floors of cement. Floors of the old compound are also being cemented.	Brick building accommodating 27 boys. Sick wards have 19 beds, and accident ward 8. Sanitary arrangements good. Rooms clean and airy. Sum of money has been voted for convalescent ward. Special food.	
Jubilee G. M. Co., Ltd.	Old stopes have been cleaned and disinfected as far as possible. Sanitary pails in use. Natives carry water underground with them.	Rooms heated by means of steam pipes.	Best mealie meal, fresh vegetables, beans, salt, and coffee. Meat twice a week.	Rooms have been recently built, and have ample air space. Brick-lined, and floored with tar macadam.	New hospital recently built. Every suggestion of the medical attendant is carried out.	
Langlaagte Block B., Ltd.	Only nine natives are employed on the property.	—	—	—	—	
Langlaagte Estate G. M. Co., Ltd.	Underground sanitation in accordance with regulations laid down by Inspector of Mines. Drinking water from special well.	No stove, boys take in old drums full of hot coals. Company taking matter of stoves into consideration.	Mealie meal; 2 lbs. meat per boy per week; beans and pumpkins three times a week; potatoes on Sundays; Kaffir beer three times a week.	When compound is full there is about 150 cubic feet of air to each boy, at present much more. Floors of beaten earth; concrete flooring is being considered.	Accommodation consists of two wards containing 60 beds each, which is being doubled by two other wards of the same size, with dispensary, bathroom and kitchen. Cape Colony hospital attendant, with assistants.	

Name of Company.	PRÉCIS OF REPLIES.					Remarks.
	Para. 4. SANITATION AND WATER SUPPLY.	Para. 5. OPEN STOVES.	Para. 6. DIET.	Para. 7. HOUSING.	Para. 8. HOSPITAL.	
Middlevlei Estate and G. M. Co., Ld.	Company employs no natives at present.	—	—	—	—	
New Goch G. Mines, Ltd.	Sanitary arrangements as laid down by the Sanitary Department. Water supplied by Johannesburg Waterworks.	Stoves similar to those recommended are being put in.	2 lbs. vegetables weekly; 2 lbs. fresh meat weekly: mealie meal. Erecting own mill for crushing mealies.	Impossible to give air space required, in present compound. Nothing done *re* flooring, as new compound will shortly be erected.	Educated Cape Colony natives are being employed. Death rate for 1903 was 43 per 1,000.	
New Unified Main Reef G. M. Co., Ltd.	—	—	—	—	Native hospital entirely separate from general compound. Every convenience, including room for attendant. In charge of white attendant, ex R.A.M.C. Hospital register is kept. Special diet.	
Nourse Deep, Ltd.	Sanitary buckets in special latrines on all levels. Workings regularly disinfected. Municipal Inspector reports favourably. Pure water from dyke fissures; analysis proves it to be of good domestic quality.	Open stoves in all compounds. Boiler plate cylinder 18 ins. by 15 ins. in which cast iron fire bar plate is supported. Smoke drawn off by conical hood and circular chimney pipe. These stoves heat the rooms efficiently.	2 lbs. meat weekly; 2 lbs. vegetables weekly; 2 lbs. rice weekly; Kaffir beans, mealie meal, coffee, lime-juice; Kaffir beer twice weekly; mealies and pumpkins in season.	Compound being altered to comply with suggestions of committee of doctors. Brick and cement floors being put in. Wooden bunks being made moveable.	Two wards (18 and 10 beds respectively), kitchen, bathroom and dispensary. Native ward at Nourse joint hospital, with room for 20 beds for serious accidents. White nurses. Convalescent ward containing 12 beds. Special diet. Hospital returns are kept.	
Robinson Randfontein G. M. Co., Ltd.	Cooking water from natural spring. Compound has supply of good water. Sanitary arrangements are satisfactory.	Type of stove to be adopted has not yet been decided upon.	Mealie meal, daily; potatoes, weekly; pumpkins. weekly; meat (fresh), 2 lbs. weekly; Kaffir beer, 1 quart weekly.	New compound erected. Rooms, 22 ft. by 18 ft. by 15 ft. high. Air space per boy, 150 cubic feet. Asphalte floors. Wooden bunks.	50 beds. Separate from the compound, and enclosed by a fence. Cook-houses, latrines, &c. Medical officer attends daily. Fresh spring water is supplied. Efficient native attendants.	
Salisbury G. M. Co., Ltd.	Old stopes have been cleaned and disinfected as far as possible. Sanitary pails in use. Natives carry water underground with them.	Rooms heated by means of steam pipes.	Best mealie meal, fresh vegetables, beans, salt, and coffee. Meat twice a week.	Rooms have been recently built, and have ample air space. Brick-lined, and floored with tar macadam.	New hospital recently built. Every suggestion of the medical attendant is carried out.	
Turf Mines, Ltd....	No natives employed on Company's property.	—	—	—	—	
Van Ryn G. Mines, Ltd.	In accordance with Article 146, Section 15 of Mines and Works Regulations. No provisions for pure water supply underground.	Nothing done	Mealie meal, meat and vegetable stew. Green vegetables, beans, &c. One bottle Kaffir beer per week.	Air space, on present complement, 145 cubic feet. Floors are of earth.	Educated Xosas attendants. Medical officer visits daily. Special food for natives in hospital.	
Vereeniging Estates, Ltd.	Bucket system underground	Stoves built in a compartment, which is between the sleeping chambers used as drying room.	2 lbs. mealie meal porridge daily; one quart of Kaffir beer three times a week; daily ration of soup. Meal ground on the property.	Good disinfection; 150 feet air space; impervious floors not adopted at present.	Accommodation for 35 patients for ordinary illness and accident.	
Village Deep, Ltd.	Comply with Art. 156, Section 15, of Mining Regulations. Not far enough advanced to arrange for pure water supply for drinking purposes.	New compound about to be constructed, when recommendations will receive attention.	Two good meals per day. Boys supplied with meat and vegetables twice per week.	New compound to be constructed when recommendations will be attended to.	Educated Basuto attendant.	

Enclosure 2 in No. 3.

THE TRANSVAAL CHAMBER OF MINES, JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA.

SUMMARY OF SUPPLEMENTARY REPLIES RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO CHAMBER'S CIRCULAR *re* HEALTH AND TREATMENT OF NATIVES.—DIET, HOUSING, ETC., OF NATIVES ON MEMBERS' PROPERTIES.

N.B.—The Supplem ntary Replies contained herein should be read in conjunction with the Replies contained in Schedule No. 1, which was sent to you on 11th March, 1904. The Replies contained in Schedule No. 1 were not fully complete, and the Chamber requested Companies to furnish further information.

Name of Company.	PRÉCIS OF REPLIES.					Remarks.
	Para. 4. SANITATION AND WATER SUPPLY.	Para. 5. OPEN STOVES.	Para. 6. DIET.	Para. 7. HOUSING.	Para. 8. HOSPITAL.	
Angelo Deep Gold Mines, Ltd.	—	Will adopt stove of the type recommended "at once."	—	—	Hospital is of wood and iron, lined on inside, and contains eight beds. Sick or injured natives are under the personal supervision of the Compound Manager.	
Apex Mines, Ltd....	—	Will adopt stove of type recommended, in new compound, which will be erected in a few weeks' time.	—	A portion of the new compound, sufficient for the boys employed, will be completed in a few weeks' time. Wooden bunks, asphalte floors and proper ventilation. Air space of 150 cubic feet per native.	Hospital proposed to be erected for the Kleinfontein Group, Central Administration, will at first have accommodation for 50 natives. Can be extended if found necessary. Building will be of wood and iron, brick lined, floored and ceiled, and air space per patient will be 580 cubic feet. One general ward for 30 patients, and an isolation ward for pneumonic and similar cases with accommodation for 20 patients. Proper lighting and ventilation, operating theatre, dispensary, consulting room, &c., &c. Proposed returns to be supplied by M.O. could easily be adopted.	
Bonanza, Ltd. ...	—	Have considered the matter carefully, and in view of the extremely short life of the mine, consider expenditure would be unwarranted The natives have always been given fuel in the winter season, which will be continued as long as the mine lasts.	—	—	—	In every direction, except as to para. 5, the doctors' recommendations are being carried out as far as possible.

Name of Company.	PRECIS OF REPLIES.					Remarks.
	Para. 4. SANITATION AND WATER SUPPLY.	Para. 5. OPEN STOVES.	Para. 6. DIET.	Para. 7. HOUSING.	Para. 8. HOSPITAL.	
City and Suburban G. M. Co., Ltd.	—	Stoves of type recommended will be put in use as soon as they can be made.	—	—	Hospital is substantial structure of stone. Two wards. One with 16 beds and provision of 570 cubic feet per bed. No. 2 Ward contains 8 beds with 560 cubic feet provision. Theatre, dispensary, kitchen, bath-rooms, &c. Company's doctors are unremitting in care of patients and in general welfare of native employes.	
Consolidated Langlaagte, Ltd.	—	It is the Company's intention to adopt stoves of an improved pattern in the compounds.	—	Impervious floors will be laid down at an early date.	—	
Consolidated Main Reef Mines and Estate, Ltd.	—	—	—	Air space at present, 300 cubic feet per native. Old wooden bunks and flooring have been abolished, rooms thoroughly disinfected and foundations filled in with ground, preparatory to laying brick floors. New compound is being built; flooring will be of brick, air space, about 200 cubic feet per native will be allowed, and the bunks will be in form of a shelf 3 feet from floor level.	—	
Crown Deep, Ltd....	Water is obtained from mine, 250 feet from service, and about 600 feet above any of the mine workings. Pure and abundant.	—	Schedule of diet, daily:—2 lbs. mealie meal porridge; ¼ lb. meat and ¼ lb. vegetables in soup; 1 pint well sweetened coffee; 1 Army biscuit; 1 pint Kaffir beer. Beans in lieu of meal on Sundays. Damaraland and Quilimane natives receive 1½ lbs. rice in lieu of meal.	Floors of brick, on which liquid cement has been poured. Water service will shortly be laid on, enabling compound to be easily cleansed.	Tenders are being called for for the erection of a new native hospital.	
Cassel Coal Co. (Springs), Ltd.	—	Manager has been instructed to place stoves of recommended type in compound immediately.	Mealie meal up to 2½ lbs. per boy daily; meat, 2 lbs. weekly; green vegetables, 2 lbs. weekly; beans, 1 lb. weekly.	Floor recently laid with ant-heap and smeared over with cow-dung. Air space much more than 150 feet per boy.	—	Reports of the Medical Officer show that health of compound is satisfactory.

Driefontein Deep, Ltd.	—	Question of stoves will be given due consideration when winter sets in.	Recommendations being carefully carried out.	Compound nearing completion. 270 cubic feet space per boy. Impervious floors will be laid down when ground has set; this applies to bunks also.	Hospital accommodation provided for minor cases. Serious cases are accommodated at Wit Deep Hospital, where there is white attendant and room is plentiful. Water is obtained from the same source as that for the white employees.	
Durban Roodepoort G. M. Co., Ltd.	—	—	—	Alterations in compound are well under way, and are expected to be completed by middle of April. Air space 150 feet. Compound of stone with cement floor. Ample provision for ventilation and heating on most advantageous principle.	Expect new hospital will be completed by end of April. Two wards, each having provision for 20 beds. Dispensary, kitchen, store room, &c. Arrangements to be made will be up-to-date and complete.	
Durban Roodepoort Deep, Ltd.	—	50 stoves have been made of the type recommended. Some are erected, and the remainder will be put up before the winter.	—	Compound built of stone, with pitched iron roof. Air space 225–75 feet per native. Each room ventilated by louvres. Windows put in each room equal to one-tenth of floor space. Hard brick floors laid with cement put in majority of rooms, and improvements as regards floors and windows will be completed in a few weeks. Nests of bunks as recommended are on order.	—	As far as possible everything recommended by the doctors has been done, and assurance is given that every means will be taken towards improvement of health and treatment of natives as recommended.
Ferreira Deep, Ltd.	The side of a drive on the fourth level has been tapped, and pure water is obtained therefrom. Abundant supply near head of shaft, and natives fill bottles which they take down the mine with them.	Stoves of the recommended type will, it is expected, be fixed before the end of April.	—	327 cubic feet of air space per native, on present complement.	—	
French Rand G.M. Co., Ltd.	—	Half rooms in compound are fitted with closed stoves, and the remainder will be so fitted before winter.	Mealie meal ad lib.; 1 lb. fresh vegetables per week, 2 lbs. meat per week. Boer meal in place of mealie meal three days per month.	More than 150 cubic feet ...	Hospital has been improved. Ward is 35 feet × 35 feet, asphalte floor, boarded ceiling, and ample light and ventilation. Operating room is also provided. Tank for disinfecting clothing.	
Geduld Proprietary, Ltd.	—	—	—	212 cubic feet of air space provided for natives on present complement.	Part of compound has been set aside for hospital purposes. Accommodates 20 natives, and can be isolated if necessary. Every care being taken as to health and treatment of natives.	

Name of Company.	PRÉCIS OF REPLIES					Remarks.
	Para. 4. SANITATION AND WATER SUPPLY.	Para. 5. OPEN STOVES.	Para. 6. DIET.	Para. 7. HOUSING.	Para. 8. HOSPITAL.	
Geldenhuis Deep, Ltd.	Water service from underground fresh water pump. Drinking water supplied at different levels from the pure water sumps, fed direct from the upper strata.	Stoves of type recommended will be erected before winter.	—	At present, air space 306 cubic feet per boy. With full complement, 157.	Hospital inside compound, with accommodation for 40 natives. Sick are nursed by native hospital attendants, under supervision of compound manager and his assistant. Extra food for sick boys. Boys provided with blankets, which are disinfected, &c., before being re-issued. Dangerous cases are isolated in a lazaretto, outside compound enclosure.	
Geldenhuis Estate and G. M. Co., Ltd.	—	—	—	Floor is of ordinary earth, but intend to apply to Board for permission to put down a floor of type recommended. Medical Officer gives assurance that the improved measures are being carried out in compound, but it will take some time to complete them in detail.		
Glencairn M. R. G.M. Co., Ltd.	—	Stoves are now on order and will be installed before winter.	—	—	Accommodation for 32 beds. Kitchen, operating room, and mortuary. Stove in each ward. Floors of cement.	
Glen Deep, Ltd....	No arrangement for water supply underground. Natives take water down mine.	Hope to instal new stoves in a few weeks.	—	—	New hospital will be commenced in a few weeks.	
Henry Nourse G.M. Co., Ltd.	—	A number of stoves are being made, and will be tried as soon as possible.	—	About 200 cubic feet air space per boy. Floors are of clay, kept clean. Good ventilation.	Hospital near compound for treatment of minor ailments, and the joint hospital for serious cases. White attendant. Medical Officer visits daily. Arrangements to satisfaction of Municipal Sanitary Inspector, who states in his report: "Native hospital accommodation is in every way satisfactory."	

Jumpers Deep, Ltd.	—	Twenty stoves are on order, which will be installed before the end of April.	—	—	—	
Jumpers G.M. Co., Ltd.	Pure water laid on	Stoves will be installed when the urgent work being done on property is carried out.	Three meals daily. Weekly rations: 16½ lbs. porridge, ½ lb. meal, 2 pints meat and vegetable soup, 2 lbs. of vegetables, 1 lb. of beans, ½ lb. of meat, 6 ozs. of salt.	Impervious floors will be laid down when the urgent work being done on the property is carried out.	—	Medical Officer states much has been done to improve condition of natives. Steps are taken to keep compound clean, and the sick isolated.
Knight Central, Ltd.	West shaft closed down. Impossible to put sanitation in sinking shaft. Water supplied from West shaft of excellent quality.	These are as recommended in Doctor's Report.	—	New compound will probably be erected in four months.	All minor cases attended to by Compound Manager, and serious ones are sent to the Witwatersrand Deep hospital, where they are attended to by white hospital orderly.	
Lancaster West G.M. Co., Ltd.	—	—	—	206 cubic feet of air space is provided for natives on present complement.	Portion of compound set aside for hospital purposes. Room for 30 patients. Lazaretto built for joint use with Lancaster G. M. Co., with accommodation for 30 patients. New hospital will be commenced next month.	
Langlaagte Deep, Ltd.	—	Every hut will be supplied with stove recommended before winter.	—	Huts fitted with windows equal to one-tenth of floor level. Hard burnt brick floors being laid. Bunks being altered from stationary to moveable. Air space, 160 cubic feet.	—	Manager states he is under instructions from General Manager to proceed regularly with improvements on the lines suggested.
Luipaards Vlei Estate G.M. Co., Ltd.	Compound has sufficient supply of good water laid on. Sanitary arrangements meet with approval of Sanitary and Medical Officers.	Probable present compound will have to be removed, so does not feel justified in incurring the expense.	—	Every precaution being taken to keep ground floors sanitary. As compound will probably have to be moved, does not consider that Company is justified in laying down floors as recommended. As only a portion of complement is employed, this allows of the boys being moved from one part of compound to another, the vacated part being thoroughly disinfected before re-occupation. Very little sickness occurs.	Hospital attached to compound is of brick, 13 × 20 feet, floored with wood, well lighted and ventilated, containing stove, necessary furniture, and five beds. Also reserve accommodation similar in building and extent. Floor of cook-house is being cemented, and an isolated building is being prepared, lined with brick and an impervious floor, for accommodation of any suspicious cases.	

Name of Company.	PRÉCIS OF REPLIES.					Remarks.
	Para. 4. SANITATION AND WATER SUPPLY.	Para 5. OPEN STOVES.	Para. 6. DIET.	Para. 7. HOUSING.	Para. 8. HOSPITAL.	
May Consolidated G.M. Co., Ltd.	—	—	—	—	Special natives as suggested are not employed, but three natives are employed who have served a considerable time under the Company's Medical Officer. White man in charge who has had general ambulance training and nursing experience.	All improved measures as recommended by Chamber have been carried out except as regards hospital and a few minor details.
Meyer & Charlton G. M. Co., Ltd.	Only awaiting return of plans	from Municipality, with who latrines, and	m they have been lodged for some time, t compound hospital. No time will be lost	o begin work of erection of ne in erection.	w compound, new lavatory,	
New Heriot G. M. Co., Ltd.	Clear supply of water underground, which will be analysed and, if found drinkable, natives will receive their underground supply from this source.	Will be installed before the coming winter.				
New Kleinfontein G. M. Co., Ltd.	—	Stove recommended will be adopted in new compound, which is in course of erection.	—	Anticipated that a portion of new compound, sufficient for the boys employed, will be completed in about six weeks' time. Compound will be fitted with wooden bunks, asphalte floors and proper ventilation. Air space of 150 cubic feet.	Hospital proposed to be erected for the Kleinfontein Group. Central Administration will at first have accommodation for 50 natives. Can be extended as found necessary. Building will be of wood and iron, brick lined, floored and ceiled, and air space per patient will be 580 cubic feet. One general ward for 30 patients, and an isolation ward for pneumonic and similar cases with accommodation for 20 patients. Proper lighting and ventilation, operating theatre, dispensary, consulting room, &c., &c. Proposed returns to be supplied by M.O. could easily be adopted.	

New Modderfontein G. M. Co., Ltd.	—	Stoves will be installed before winter.	—	Compound stone built, impervious floors, windows in each room. 400 cubic feet air space on present complement of 700. Rooms provided with sufficient light and well ventilated.	Original hospital is 45×20 feet. A room 29×15 feet has been added. 15,000 cubic feet air space. Stoves have been put in rooms. Walls have been plastered in order to facilitate washing. Building is such that it can be properly cleansed.	Gives assurance that all reasonable measures will be carried out.
New Primrose G. M. Co., Ltd.	—	—	—	Nothing done *re* impervious floors, but matter will receive attention shortly.	Hospital of burnt brick, containing two large wards, 42×21 feet each, one for surgical and the other for medical cases, equipped with 40 beds in all. Operating theatre, porch for convalescents, &c.	
New Rietfontein Est. Gold Mines, Ltd.	—	—	—	As soon as work can proceed more actively, intend to erect new compound. Cannot see their way, therefore, to put impervious floors in the old compound. Air space is 250 cubic feet per native.	Air space per bed, 934 cubic feet. Hospital contains six spring bedsteads and blankets. Special diet for natives in hospital.	
North Randfontein G. M. Co., Ltd.	Company closed down on 18th April.					
Porges Randfontein G. M. Co., Ltd.	—	These have not been decided upon.	Only 25 natives working for Company who are fed and attended to by the S. Randfontein G. M. Co.	So far, a new compound has not been decided upon.	Hospital 40 × 14 feet iron building, brick lined, 10 feet high, having two doors and three windows. Building is floored and ceiled. Under working conditions, Company has trained natives as nurses, and a qualified medical practitioner to attend daily.	
Randfontein Estates G. M. Co., Ltd.	Company has no natives in its employ.					
Rietfontein "A" Ltd.	—	Intend to adopt suitable stoves.	—	Impervious floors will be put in compound. The 135 cubic feet allowed will probably be enlarged at an early date.		
Robinson G. M. Co., Ltd.	—	As work progresses, stoves of pattern recommended will be put in.	—	Flooring of compound with brick, grouted in with cement, has been taken in hand, and a commencement made with insertion of windows and ventilators.		

Name of Company.	PRÉCIS OF REPLIES.					Remarks.
	Para. 4. SANITATION AND WATER SUPPLY.	Para. 5. OPEN STOVES.	Para. 6. DIET.	Para. 7. HOUSING.	Para. 8. HOSPITAL.	
Robinson Deep G. M. Co., Ltd.	—	Will be installed before winter.	—	Floors of compound have been relaid and are in perfect order.		
Robinson Randfontein G. M. Co., Ltd.	Water good. Compound has a service laid on, in addition to which water is hauled from a natural spring for hospital purposes.	Has not yet decided on pattern of stove to be adopted, but is of opinion that that recommended should be put in.	—	Floored with asphalte, and frequently flushed with disinfectants.	Accommodation for 50 beds. Wooden and canvas stretchers. Cook-house, medicine store, &c. All recommendations acted on as far as circumstances permit.	Natives well looked after and complaints are unknown. All recommendations for improvements are acted on where possible.
Roodepoort Central Deep, Ltd.	Large majority of boys take their own supply of fresh water from the tap at top of the shaft. Boys have been warned not to drink underground water.	—	—	—	Have erected hospital jointly with Princess Estate. Ample accommodation for 40 natives. Every care is being taken of general health and treatment of the natives.	
Roodepoort G. M. Co., Ltd.	—	—	—	Air space will be, in proposed new compound, 150 cubic feet per native. Floors will be of cement or of asphalte. Bunks will be provided.		
Roodepoort U.M.R., Ltd.	—	Intend to instal stoves as recommended. A certain number are now on trial.	Monday — Porridge; Tuesday — Meat, Vegetables and Porridge; Wednesday —Porridge; Thursday—Porridge and Vegetables; Friday — Meat, Vegetables and Porridge; Saturday—Soup, Vegetables and Porridge; Sunday—Porridge and Biscuits.	195 cubic feet over the usual complement of 1,200 boys. Impervious floors will have immediate attention.		
Rose Deep, Ltd. ...	—	Stoves as recommended are now on order and will be erected before cold weather.	—	—	New hospital is nearing completion. One ward 37 feet 6 inches × 30 feet. Two wards for serious cases; one, 21 feet 9 inches × 30 feet; the other, 26 feet 3 inches × 22 feet. Operating room, dispensary, attendant's room, store and kitchen.	

Simmer & Jack East, Ltd.	—	Received no instructions from Board of Directors on this subject.	—	Received no instructions from the Board of Directors *re* impervious floors.	Natives in hospital have anything extra which the Medical Officer may order for them. Disinfection is vigorously carried out. Educated Transkei native employed, assisted by another of his class, and two ordinary natives for rough work.
Simmer & Jack West, Ltd.	A new compound is in course	of erection, in which the re-	commendations contained in paragraphs	4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 of Report	will be carried out.
South Geldenhuis Deep, Ltd.	—	Stoves of type recommended will be put in each compound.	—	Impervious floors are now being laid down.	Accommodation for 32 natives. The recommendations of the Company's medical officer are in every respect adhered to.
Simmer & Jack Proprietary Mines. Ltd.	—	One compound is already equipped with stoves, and the balance of the stoves are expected to arrive May 6th.	—	150 cubic feet allowed per native. Hard floors are being put in.	Everything is according to regulations.
South Nourse, Ltd.	—	Stoves just arrived and will be put in before the cold weather.	—	New compound completed in February. Air space 170 cubic feet. Change house is under consideration.	Any serious case of accident or sickness is sent to the Nourse Joint Hospital.
South Randfontein G.M. Co., Ltd.	—	Substitution of stoves recommended for those in use is still under consideration.	—	Cubic space per boy in new compound is about 150 cubic feet.	Hospital divided into three wards, one 42 feet × 15 feet, well ventilated and lighted, and two smaller ones 17 feet × 15 feet, and 32 feet × 15 feet respectively. Small wards are used for special cases, the larger ward being surgical. Ventilation of smaller wards consists of door and window. Beds and all necessary comforts. White man in charge under supervision of Company's doctor.
South Rose Deep, Ltd.	—	—	—	150 cubic feet allowed per native. Hard floors are being put in.	Everything is according to regulations.
Van Ryn G.M. Estate, Ltd.	In accordance with Art. 146, Section 15 of Mines and Works Regulations. No provision has been made for pure water supply.	No arrangements have been made.	Meals consist of about 1·7lbs. mealie meal daily. Meat and Vegetable stew twice weekly. Vegetables, 2lbs. weekly. Beans, 2/3rd lb. weekly. 1 bottle Kaffir Beer per week.	145 cubic feet. Floors of earth. Have addressed the Board of Directors *re* impervious floors.	Educated Xosas attendants. White man visits hospital daily. Special food to natives in hospital. No scurvy.

Name of Company.	PRÉCIS OF REPLIES.					Remarks.
	Para. 4. SANITATION AND WATER SUPPLY.	Para. 5. OPEN STOVES.	Para. 6. DIET.	Para. 7. HOUSING.	Para. 8. HOSPITAL.	
Village M.R.G.M. Co., Ltd.	Pure water supply underground. Surface drinking water supplied from town.	Stove has been approved by medical officer. It has no particular name, but has plate on top and chimney to lead out of the room.	—	149·2 cubic feet per boy, over 2,500 boys. At present in most crowded room there is 200 cubic feet per boy.	—	
Vogelstruis Estate & G.M. Co., Ltd.	—	—	—	Floors of concrete. 150 cubic feet air space per boy.	—	
Wemmer G.M. Co., Ltd.	Sawdust urinal will be introduced as soon as plans are received from Johannesburg Sanitary Department. Natives are supplied with water from the town main.	Not intended to adopt open stoves.	—	—	New hospital, with accommodation for 25 beds, will be erected on this mine within the next few months.	
West Roodepoort Deep, Ltd.	—	Will be put in as soon as the weather becomes cold enough to necessitate their use.	—	—	—	
Windsor G.M. Co., Ltd.	—	Use old truck bodies turned upside down, with iron pipes leading through the roofs, but experience shows the boys prefer the old fire buckets.	—	At present each boy has 260 cubic feet. Two large windows, one door and one ventilator in each room.	—	The particular care given to the natives is borne out by the fact that so many boys come back voluntarily, and by the company's medical officer.
Witwatersrand Deep, Ltd.	Sanitary pails in every level, removed nightly. Compound water is from same source as that of white residents.	As it is possible Chinese will be employed, nothing definite will be arranged before next June, when new compound will be completed.		—	Consists of 5 rooms, 18 × 20 feet each, and accommodates 60 beds; asphalte floors; well ventilated. White attendant and two Kaffir assistants. Mine doctor will be informed of new measures required and may be relied on for their fulfilment.	
Witbank Colliery, Ltd.	—	Stove to be adopted will be the pattern used on East Rand.	—	—	Accommodation of 40 beds: room for putting in a further six. Recommendations *re* treatment, food, disinfection, &c., &c., are being scrupulously carried out.	

Wolhuter Gold Mines Co., Ltd.	—	—	—	Air space, 180 cubic feet allowed.	Enclose letter from Medical Officer stating present hospital is far from satisfactory, and suggesting the erection of a wood and iron building large enough for one dozen beds, with good floor and ceiling and the necessary furniture. Considers such a building would materially benefit the welfare of the sick boys.	
Witwatersrand G. M. Co., Ltd.	Water supply from Johannesburg Waterworks Co.	—	Mealie meal porridge three times daily *ad lib.*; 1 lb. fresh uncooked meat and ½ lb. potatoes twice weekly. Potatoes are alternated with dry beans occasionally, also onions, and sweet potatoes; pumpkins and green mealies in season.	Compound has been paved throughout, and is periodically sluiced and disinfected.	Compound hospital in charge of white man, *ex* R.A.M.C. Special diet; considers suggestions of Medical Officers excessive. Natives' food naturally is almost entirely vegetarian, and 3 lbs. fresh meat weekly is more than desirable. Would not increase natives' capacity for work. States mortality is higher from pneumonia amongst these natives, who are in best condition.	Company expresses its views as to the desirability otherwise of certain of the Medical Officers' recommendations, but does not state whether it has carried out or intends to carry out such recommendations.

No. 4.

MR. LYTTELTON to GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER.

MY LORD, Downing Street, August 5, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 8th July,* forwarding statements from various mining companies as to the health and treatment of their native employés.

I would refer you to my telegram of the 9th May, No. 3,† and should be glad if, in sending the report therein called for, you would also obtain the observations of the Commissioner for Native Affairs, and of the Superintendent of Foreign Labour, and of any other officers charged with the duty of safeguarding the health and comfort of the natives and other employés on the mines, as to the sufficiency of the improvements which have been made in the various mines.

The statements from the Chamber of Mines which you have forwarded to me are of great interest and importance, but it is necessary that I should be assured that the officers of the Government are satisfied with what has been done, and have good grounds for their satisfaction.

I have, &c.,
ALFRED LYTTELTON.

No. 5.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received August 13, 1904.)

SIR, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, July 25, 1904.

WITH reference to the last sentence of your telegram of the 9th May, No. 3,† I have the honour to transmit to you statistics showing the mortality of native labourers in the Transvaal mines for the first six months of this year, as compared with a similar period in 1903.

I also enclose a copy of a letter addressed by the Chamber of Mines to the Native Affairs Department, showing the arrangements made for accommodating native labourers arriving from warm climates in a weakly condition.

I have, &c.,
MILNER,
Governor.

Enclosure 1 in No. 5.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF MORTALITY AMONGST NATIVES EMPLOYED ON MINES AND WORKS IN LABOUR DISTRICTS.

January to June, 1903 and 1904.

Month.	No. of Natives Employed.		No. of Deaths from Disease.		Death Rate per 1,000 per annum from Disease..		No. of Deaths from Accident.		Death Rate per 1,000 per annum from Accident.		Total No. of Deaths.		Total Death Rate per 1,000 per annum.	
	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1903.	1904.
January ...	49,761	79,161	240	370	57·88	56·09	13	19	3·13	2·88	253	389	61·01	58·96
February ..	55,288	80,365	197	223	42 76	33·30	10	22	2·17	3·29	207	245	44·93	36·58
March ...	57,022	83,904	217	223	45·67	31·89	18	31	3·79	4·43	235	254	49·45	36·33
April ...	62,265	85,400	257	168	49·53	23·61	12	59	2·31	8·29	269	227	51·84	31·90
May.	65,371	85,994	409	289	75·08	40·33	22	24	4·04	3·35	431	313	79·12	43·68
June ...	68,819	83,536	476	231	83·00	33·18	16	25	2·79	3·59	492	256	85·79	36·77
Average ...	59,754·3	83,060	299·3	250·7	60·10	36·22	15·2	30	3·05	4·33	314·5	280·7	63·16	40·55

S. M. PRITCHARD,
Pass Commissioner,
Native Affairs Department.

Johannesburg, July 12, 1904.

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* No. 3.

† No. 17 in [Cd. 2025].

Enclosure 2 in No. 5.

TRANSVAAL CHAMBER OF MINES to SECRETARY FOR NATIVE AFFAIRS, Johannesburg.

SIR, Transvaal Chamber of Mines, Johannesburg, June 28, 1904.

WITH reference to your letter of the 21st instant, I am directed by the Executive Committee to state that arrangements are being made by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association for the temporary detention of natives arriving in a more or less weakly condition, and who at the time of their arrival are not in a thoroughly fit condition for full ordinary mine work.

It is proposed to utilise a portion of the existing buildings of the depôt of the Association at Johannesburg for this purpose.

If it is found later that the accommodation is insufficient, additional buildings will be provided.

No serious illness is treated at the depôt, but a small detached building is provided with 20 beds and special kitchen for hospital use; a further building of the same character is now proposed, which will add 25 beds.

The selection of cases for detention in the depôt will be made by the Medical Officer of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, and the period of detention will be left to his discretion.

The Association will endeavour to provide some sort of temporary light duties for the natives, for which they would be paid, but it is very doubtful whether suitable arrangements can be effected.

The number of natives arriving in a state of health requiring the treatment indicated is stated to be comparatively small, and every precaution is being taken to have sickly natives rejected at recruiting stations.

The Executive Committee shares the desire of the Commissioner for Native Affairs in the case of natives arriving from the warmer latitudes to do all that is possible towards gradually inuring them to the climatic and industrial conditions of the Rand.

I have, &c.,
J. COWIE,
Secretary.

The Secretary for Native Affairs,
Johannesburg.

No. 6.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received August 20, 1904.)

SIR, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, July 29, 1904.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 4th instant,* I have the honour to transmit to you certain extracts† from recent numbers of the local newspapers, on the subject of Chinese labour in the mines of the Witwatersrand.

The outbreak of beri-beri at the New Comet mine has steadily decreased, and to-day there are 29 cases remaining in hospital (as against 48 when the attack was at its height), while no further deaths have occurred from illness.

The efficiency of the labourers has also shown constant improvement. Exact statistics of this are only possible in the case of men employed in drilling, and the number of these naturally varies from day to day as the development of the mine proceeds. I transcribe, for your information, two of the daily returns of efficiency

* No. 13 in [Cd. 2183]. † Not reprinted.

in drilling, which constitute in my opinion a very satisfactory record of three weeks improvement.

On July 7th. Total: 440 coolies drilled 564 ft. 2 ins. Average drilled per coolie—15.16 ins.

Details of best footage done:—

41 coolies drilled 2 ft. each.
20 coolies drilled 2 ft. 6 ins. each.
9 coolies drilled 3 ft. each.
1 coolie drilled 3 ft. 6 ins.
3 coolies drilled 3 ft. 9 ins. each.
1 coolie drilled 4 ft.
1 coolie drilled 4 ft. 5 ins.

On July 28th. Total: 341 coolies drilled 690 ft. 8 ins. Average drilled per coolie—24.30 ins.

Details of best footage done:—

35 coolies drilled 2 ft. each.
38 coolies drilled 2 ft. 6 ins. each.
99 coolies drilled 3 ft. each.
7 coolies drilled 3 ft. 6 ins. each.
3 coolies drilled 4 ft. each.
1 coolie drilled 5 ft. 4 ins.

The " New Comet " mine, as you will have learnt from my telegram of to-day, No. 3,* started crushing on the 28th instant, being thus the first mine to recommence production as a direct result of the importation of Chinese labour.

An unfortunate accident occurred a week ago and resulted in the death of two coolies. It was due to the misguided zeal of the victims, and not to any negligence on the part of the mine authorities. No serious panic or disturbance occurred, and the incident is, on the whole, regarded as proving satisfactorily that the Chinese labourers will not be deterred by the inevitable dangers of mining work.

The question of desertions from the mine has given rise to a certain number of unfounded statements, some of which have, as I understand, been cabled to the English newspapers. I am watching the matter very closely, and am satisfied that the total number of deserters at the present time does not exceed three. The liberty allowed to the coolies when off work is necessarily, as you are aware, very considerable. The premises of the East Rand Proprietary Mines, of which they are free without the necessity of obtaining permits, consist of a stretch of country three miles long, and include the town of Boksburg and a number of scattered dwellings, plantations, &c. It is therefore impossible to state at any given moment the exact number of labourers who are present. The method adopted is to visit the compound about midnight, when the coolies of the day-shift are presumed to be in their bunks and the night-shift is at work and can be counted below. On the last occasion when this was done, three men were returned as absent, but it is always possible that these were in some other part of the mine premises.

With regard to the future supply of labour, I have informed you by telegraph* of the arrival of the " Ikbal " at Durban on the 26th instant with a second batch of 1,970 labourers. No deaths occurred among them on the voyage, and no sickness, with the exception of four mild cases of dysentery. A similar number is expected next week in the " Swanley," and I understand that it is hoped to bring at least another 8,000 labourers to this country before the end of September.

I have, &c.,
MILNER,
Governor.

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* No. 2.

No. 7.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received August 27, 1904.)

SIR, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, August 8, 1904.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 28th May,* I have the honour to transmit, for your information, a copy of a report by the Pass Commissioner of the Native Affairs Department on the subject of the qualifications of the Native Inspectors on the mines and the extent to which their functions are within the knowledge of the industrial natives.

I have, &c.,
MILNER,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 7.

MEMORANDUM.

1. The principal native languages spoken by the natives employed in the Transvaal are:—

Zulu.
Sesuto.
Sixosa.
Secoana.
Shangaan, Tsinyamban, Isichopi } Spoken by natives from Portuguese territory.

An intimate knowledge of these languages would enable one to converse with the majority of the natives employed, but not by any means with all—those coming from British Central Africa, Damaraland and other parts of German West Africa, those speaking Swahili and others, having distinct languages of their own.

Natives on the mines are, therefore, such a heterogeneous population that it is obviously impossible to have a staff of Inspectors well acquainted with all their languages.

The dialect almost universally employed by those responsible for the control of natives, and by natives themselves, is a so-called "mine taal," which has sprung into existence and is spoken and understood by the great majority of those employed, although those recruited from areas which have only lately been opened for recruiting—such as Damaraland and British Central Africa—have not yet picked it up sufficiently to understand or make themselves understood. With such natives communication is therefore held through the medium of interpreters, who are selected at the time of recruiting to accompany each gang.

The Inspectors of this Department are generally acquiring a fair knowledge of the mine dialect, which doubtless will be improved by a longer association with their work. At present they are accompanied by interpreters.

2. During the visit here of Mr. Brownlee and the deputation of native headmen from the Cape Colony, it was stated by certain natives from that Colony that the Inspectors of this Department were out of touch with, in fact were unknown to, them.

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* No. 1.

These statements are, in my opinion, misleading and contrary to fact. There can be little doubt that the natives do know of the existence of Inspectors, as almost all cases preferred against them are tried by these officials in the mine compounds and in the hearing of the natives there.

The large number of inspections of mine compounds, amounting during the past year to 5,481, and the number of cases tried, amounting to 2,770 during the same period, combined with the fact that natives have a special faculty for receiving and transmitting news, are, I consider, in themselves sufficient proof that those employed here are cognisant of the presence of Government officials to whom they may state their grievances.

3. In the selection of those officials of this Department who are directly responsible for the control of natives employed in the labour districts of the Transvaal, special importance has been attached to the necessity of having men of strong personality and integrity—two most essential qualifications, in view of the fact that the duties of Inspectors constitute them the intermediaries between the Government, the employers of labour, and their native employés.

There are altogether sixteen such officials, of whom six are of Colonial birth, and have lived all their lives in South Africa, while the remainder have an average South African experience—almost entirely in native territories—of ten years.

S. M. PRITCHARD,
Pass Commissioner.

Johannesburg, July 20, 1904.

No. 8.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received September 10, 1904.)

SIR, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, August 22, 1904.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 1st July,* forwarding a copy of a question asked in the House of Commons on the 23rd of June by Mr. Sydney Buxton on the subject of the precautions taken upon the arrival of the "Tweeddale" at Durban, I have the honour to forward herewith a report by the Superintendent of Foreign Labour on the subject.

I trust that you will be satisfied that every care was taken to ensure all reasonable comfort for the coolies during their journey to the Rand: the evidence has satisfied me on this point.

I have, &c.,
MILNER,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 8.

REPORT.

The steamer "Tweeddale" on arrival in Durban Bay was not guarded by armed police boats.

The wharves where the Chinese coolies landed were surrounded by armed police.

The coolies were taken up to the Rand in locked railway carriages.

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* Not printed: the despatch asked for a report on the proceedings.

Before their departure their photographs and finger prints were taken.

These precautions were taken to prevent the escape of the coolies, and to prevent the residents from interfering with the coolies and the necessary work of registration and identification.

I should add that the railway carriages into which the coolies were locked, as I believe is customary on express trains at home, were ordinary 3rd class carriages specially fitted up with sanitary conveniences, water, and electric light. The meals were served into the carriages by the waiters employed at the railway refreshment rooms and were eaten en route.

The armed police on the wharf in no single case had to stop or attempt to stop an escaping coolie as no coolie attempted to escape. They were, however, very useful in keeping off the crowds of sightseers, snap shotters, and newspaper correspondents who would otherwise have interfered seriously with my work.

W. EVANS,
Superintendent, Foreign Labour Department.

Johannesburg,
August 11.

No. 9.

MR. LYTTELTON to GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER.

(Sent 11.15 a.m., September 30, 1904.)

TELEGRAM.

[*Answered by No.* 13.]

September 30. No. 1. Your telegrams 21st July, No. 1 and No. 2.* Have you any further figures as to increased employment of whites in consequence of introduction of Chinese labour?

No. 10.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received October 1, 1904.)

[*Answered by No.* 16.]

SIR, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, September 12, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you a copy of a report by the Acting Commissioner for Native Affairs, which deals with the various points raised in your telegram of the 9th of May, No. 3.†

You will observe that Mr. Windham is able to express and explain his satisfaction with the steps taken to safeguard the health of natives employed in the Transvaal mines. I understand that the Superintendent of Foreign Labour is

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* Nos. 10 and 11 in [Cd. 2183].

† No. 17 in [Cd. 2025].

equally satisfied in respect of the Chinese labourers, but sufficient time has not yet elapsed to enable him to furnish you with a comprehensive report.

I have, &c.,
MILNER,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 10.

ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR NATIVE AFFAIRS to GOVERNOR.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, September 5, 1904.

IN accordance with the instructions contained in the telegram, No. 3, addressed to Your Excellency by the Secretary of State on the 9th May last, I have the honour to submit the following report, with statistical returns, relative to the mortality amongst natives employed on mines within the proclaimed labour dis-
6 tricts of the Transvaal:—

I.

MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1904.

The high rate of mortality among natives employed on the mines and other industrial works in the labour districts during the past twelve months, and especially during the calendar year 1903, and the causes to which it might be attributed have engaged the close attention of the officials of this Department and the representatives of the mining industry generally.

In the minds of certain people, to whom the only accurate information available was the published statistics of mortality, and who were ignorant of the conditions obtaining, illtreatment appears to have been accepted as the primary cause of the high death rate.

Whilst I am not aware of the existence of such illtreatment, I may at once state that careful observation has led me to believe that the general treatment of natives, either as regards housing or feeding—while it is a factor—is not the most important factor to be weighed in determining the causes of the abnormally high death rate which undoubtedly has prevailed in the past.

That we have to look elsewhere for the main causes is borne out by statistics and supported by the fact that high death rates have not infrequently occurred on mines where the attention to the essential living conditions of the natives employed is admitted to be good, while the lowest death rates are frequently to be found among mines where the conditions are, in comparison, much less satisfactory.

It would, indeed, appear from these results, and from actual experience, that the mere fact of a change in the living conditions of the natives from those to which they were accustomed at their homes may unfavourably affect the death rate, even although the change be to living conditions which are better.

When fair comparisons of yearly death rates are in the future possible, I do not doubt that it will be found:

(*a*) That the death rate during the year 1903 was abnormal and was attributable chiefly to three causes:

1. The extremely severe seasonal conditions which prevailed during the year, and which affected the white population as well as the black.

2. The recruiting of natives of insufficient physique for mine work, brought about by the shortage of the labour supply, and of natives with marked scorbutic tendencies consequent on poor feeding owing to the failure of the mealie crops in their own homes. Many of these were unable to withstand the severe climatic change, and died shortly after arrival on the mines.

3. The innate carelessness of natives in guarding against chill and against contracting diseases of the respiratory system, which in the past year have been responsible for 55.01 per cent. of the total deaths, and

(*b*) That the much reduced death rate during 1904, which is actually falling steadily during the present season when last year it was at its highest, is due to reverse conditions, viz. :

1. The exceptionally mild season this year.

2. The better physique of the natives now arriving and the greater care exercised by the mining industry in the selection of recruits.

To these must be added the improvements effected in the housing, diet and clothing of the natives when at work.

In submitting the attached statistics of mortality among natives employed on mines and works in the several labour districts of this Colony, attention may be drawn to the following points :

Death Rate among Natives employed on Mines and Works. Appendix 1.

The total death rate for the past year (1st July, 1903, to 30th June, 1904) was 59.11 per thousand, the death rate during the last six months of 1903 being 80.05, while that for the first six months of this year was only 40.55 per thousand. As evidence of the marked difference between the seasonal conditions of the two periods, it may be pointed out that while during the former period 1,861 natives employed on mines and works died from diseases of the respiratory system, only 687 have succumbed to such diseases during the latter period.

Death Returns classified, Coal, Gold and Diamond Mines, &c. Appendices 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

This return is instructive as showing the comparative death rates among natives employed on :

(*a*) Gold Mines (Outcrops).
(*b*) Gold Mines (Deep Levels).
(*c*) Coal Mines.
(*d*) Diamond Mines.
(*e*) Surface Works.

It will be seen that on the outcrop gold mines and on coal mines there is little difference in the death rates, that in the case of the former being 58 and in the latter 59.3 per thousand.

The death rate on the deep level gold mines (67.4 per thousand) is, as would be expected, higher than on the outcrop mines.

On surface works, where the conditions are naturally more favourable, and where a considerable proportion of the natives employed are natives who have been employed on mines and have become acclimatized, the death rate (20.8 per thousand) is, in comparison, low.

The lowest death rate is that among natives employed on diamond mines, which during the past year was at the rate of 8.6 per thousand, but it must be remembered that mortality statistics for only the last four months are available, and that, while the death rate has been evaluated as an annual death rate, the statistics on which the evaluation is based cover only a portion of the year and that during that period, as has been stated, the seasonal conditions were, as compared with the latter months of 1903, exceptionally favourable.

The low death rate on diamond mines is also attributable to the fact that the great majority of the natives so employed are recruited locally, 91.53 per cent. being Transvaal natives, amongst whom the death rate, as compared with that of other tribes, is lowest, while only 5.64 are natives from Portuguese territory, who

furnish almost 70 per cent. of the total mine labour supply (exclusive of diamond mines), and whose death rate, being 13.87 per cent. above the average, is abnormal.

Appendices 7 and 8.

Territorial Analysis of Mortality on Mines and Works.

The percentage of deaths from each individual disease among natives from Cape Colony, Natal, Zululand and the Transvaal, employed on mines and works, is in every case—as compared with the ratio borne by them to the total labour supply on mines and works—below the average. In the case of natives from Portuguese territory it is just the reverse and considerably above the average, while among those from British Central Africa it is in nearly every case above the average.

Respiratory Diseases.—From these diseases, which have been responsible for the large proportion of 55.01 of the total deaths, the natives from Portuguese territory, British Central Africa and Damaraland, among whom 86.58 per cent. of the total deaths from these diseases have occurred, have suffered most severely.

Meningitis.—It will be observed that almost 90 per cent. of the deaths from this disease occurred amongst natives from Portuguese territory.

Appendix 9.

Territorial Analysis of Labour Employed and Mortality from Disease, Comparative.

The figures shown in this return, if studied in connection with Appendices 7 and 8, go far to convince one—especially if the proportion of deaths from diseases of the respiratory system to the total number of deaths (55.01 per cent.), and the large proportion of natives from the territories most seriously affected by these diseases to the total labour employed on mines and works, be considered—that the death rate of natives on the mines is regulated to a great degree by climatic circumstances.

The position of each area of supply in the mortality table is as follows:

Transvaal	8.67	per cent. below the average.
Cape Colony	5.36	,, ,,
Natal and Zululand ...	2.00	,, ,,
Orange River Colony ...	.22	,, ,,
Rhodesia	.18	,, ,,
Swaziland	.05	per cent. above the average.
Basutoland	.20	,, ,,
Damaraland	.27	,, ,,
British Bechuanaland ...	.84	,, ,,
British Central Africa ...	1.30	,, ,,
Portuguese Territory ...	13.87	,, ,,
Others	.01	,, ,,

It will be observed that although the health and resisting power to disease of natives from the Transvaal and Cape Colony help very materially to reduce the death rate, the effect is counterbalanced by the abnormal death rate among natives from Portuguese territory. The other tribes, though showing no marked difference one way or the other, stand very much in the order one would expect if the climates from which they are recruited be considered.

Appendix 10.*

Chart of Mortality.

The chart of mortality practically speaks for itself, but it may be well to draw attention to the chief points brought out by it.

The death rate during the month of July, 1903, was much in excess of that for any other month during the year, and it will be noted that respiratory diseases, and pneumonia especially, are chiefly responsible for this abnormal rate.

* Not reproduced.

It is interesting to note the low death rate from respiratory diseases during the winter months of 1904—a fact which is mainly due, as already pointed out in this report, to extremely mild seasonal conditions.

If the curve of the total mortality and that of the total mortality (exclusive of accidents) be followed, the relation of deaths from accidents to the total death rate will be observed.

The death rate from accidents was, as will be seen, exceptional during the month of April, 1904, and is due to the disastrous accident which occurred during that month on the Robinson Deep Gold Mine, in which 43 natives were killed.

The death rate from dysentery and diarrhœa was, as usual, highest during the summer months.

Scurvy during the last five months has died out almost entirely, which may be attributed partly to the better conditions following a more particular examination of recruits, and partly to the liberal diet now generally provided.

II.

Mines upon which the Deaths from Disease exceeded the rate of 50 per thousand per annum during the months of May and June, 1904.

Appendices 11 and 12.

Returns are attached of the gold mines upon which the mortality exceeded the annual rate of 50 per thousand. They are specially confined to such mines as employed more than 240 natives, because of the fact that one death in a mine employing less than that number causes the death rate thereon to exceed 50 per thousand.

The highest rate recorded was on the New Primrose Mine. This was due to an epidemic of pneumonia which commenced in April and culminated in May, 11 of the 17 deaths having occurred among natives who had been employed less than four months prior to death. The hospital on this mine is good, and the patients receive every attention.

The mortality on the Coronation Colliery is unusually high, the average for the preceding four months being 41.24. The compound on this colliery is being improved and extended.

III.

Precautions taken to Reduce the Exceptional Death Rate amongst Natives recruited from Portuguese Territory.

These precautions may be briefly summarised as follows:—

(a) *Issue of Special Clothing.*

All natives recruited from Portuguese territory are supplied with clothing by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association previous to their arrival on the Rand. At present the issue consists of a great-coat, a cord suit (jacket and trousers), a cotton sweater, a leather belt and two cotton blankets.

(b) *Temporary Detention of Natives who at the time of their Arrival are in a Weakly Condition.*

The arrangements made in this connection are fully shown in the copy of a letter addressed by the Chamber of Mines to this Department, and transmitted to the Secretary of State under cover of His Excellency the Governor's despatch of 25th July, 1904.*

(c) *Improved Compound and Hospital Accommodation.*

Of 115 compounds under the inspection of this Department, substantial improvements have been effected during the past year in 66 compounds and in 47 compound hospital. Ten compounds and nine compound hospitals are either in course of erection or will shortly be erected.

(d) *Liberal and Varied Diet.*

The diet now provided may be regarded as liberal and universally satisfactory.

(e) *Greater Care Exercised in the Selection of Recruits.*

Since the above report was written, I have received a copy of the despatch addressed to Your Excellency on the 5th August.†

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* See No. 5, page 16.

† See No. 4, page 16.

In view of all the improvements detailed in the schedule and memorandum prepared by this Department on the 31st March last and published in the Blue Book, Cd. 2025, pages 62-100, and of the further particulars now furnished herewith, I have no hesitation in stating that I am satisfied with the results of the endeavours which have generally been made by the mining companies to improve the living conditions of their native employés, and to reduce the abnormally high death rate which has been such a deplorable feature of mine labour here in the past.

It is to be borne in mind that some of the mines are nearly worked out, and the companies concerned can scarcely be expected, under the circumstances, to incur the same outlay in the construction of new buildings on compounds as is being undertaken by mines with a long life before them. In such instances this Department only requires that the compounds shall be kept in a proper sanitary condition.

All the reports received from the Pass Commissioner and his staff of inspectors, who are immediately responsible for the safeguarding and comfort of the native labourers, go to show that in the matter of diet and medical attendance the conditions are satisfactory, but there can be no doubt that in certain compounds and hospitals much still remains to be done.

Whilst, therefore, considerable improvements have unquestionably been effected, it is recognised that the conditions on many of the mines have not yet been placed upon a satisfactory footing.

It is the aim of this Department to see that the general treatment of native labourers is maintained up to a certain standard throughout the mines, and to press for remedy wherever the treatment may fall short of that standard.

W. WINDHAM,
Acting Commissioner for Native Affairs.

APPENDIX 1.

MORTALITY RETURN SHOWING DEATH RATE AMONG NATIVES EMPLOYED ON MINES AND WORKS IN PROCLAIMED LABOUR DISTRICTS, 1ST JULY, 1903, TO 30TH JUNE, 1904.

Month.	Death Rate per 1,000.	
1903.		
July	112·54	
August	78·47	
September	69·44	= 80·05
October	65·72	
November	79·41	
December	78·28	
1904.		
January	58·97	
February	36·58	
March	36·33	= 40·55
April	31·90	
May	43·68	
June	36·77	
Total	59·11	

APPENDIX 2.

MORTALITY AMONG NATIVES EMPLOYED ON GOLD MINES (OUTCROP) IN PROCLAIMED LABOUR DISTRICTS, 1ST JULY, 1903, TO 30TH JUNE, 1904.

Name of Mine.	Average No. of Natives employed.	No. of Deaths.	Death Rate per 1,000 per Annum.	Remarks.
City and Suburban	1,215	39	32·1	
Henry Nourse	886	31	35·0	
Jumpers	687	34	49·5	
New Goch	1,457	29	19·9	
New Heriot	764	56	73·3	
Treasury	728	46	63·2	
Wolhuter	1,287	48	37·3	
Meyer and Charlton	771	41	53·2	
South Nourse	113	4	35·4	
Wemmer	925	33	35·7	
Village Main Reef	955	18	18·8	
Worcester	350	6	68·6	3 months.
Ferreira	1,388	42	30·3	
Jubilee	744	62	83·3	
Salisbury	649	47	75·5	
Langlaagte Estate	1,846	157	85·0	
Bonanza	578	24	41·5	
Crown Reef	1,108	37	33·4	
Robinson	1,470	104	70·7	
Langlaagte Consolidated	158	7	44·3	
Paarl Central	3	—	—	
Langlaagte Royal	2	—	—	
Langlaagte Block B	294	15	51·0	
Lancaster West	810	46	56·8	
Tudor	23	—	—	
Robinson Randfontein	1,009	80	79·3	
North Randfontein	829	64	77·2	
South Randfontein	1,997	129	64·6	
Porges Randfontein	386	33	90·7	
West Rand Mines	20	—	—	
French Rand	802	53	66·1	
Lancaster	772	49	63·5	
Carried forward	25,026	1,334	—	

Name of Mine.	Average No. of Natives employed.	No. of Deaths.	Death Rate per 1,000 per Annum.	Remarks.
Brought forward	25,026	1,334		
Violet	6	—	—	
York	2	—	—	
Greys Mynpacht...	13	—	—	
Luipaards Vlei	294	3	10·2	
Champ d'Or	715	45	62·9	
West Rand Central	422	10	23·7	
New Midas	4	—	—	
Windsor	442	24	54·3	
Block A	6	1	166·7	
Ferguson Randfontein	2	—	—	
New Rip	1	—	—	
Middelvlei Estate	2	—	—	
Aurora West	58	2	34·5	
Bantjes Consolidated	4	—	—	
Consolidated Main Reef	672	34	50·6	
Durban Roodepoort	775	37	47·7	
New Unified	1,384	96	69·4	
Roodepoort	178	3	16·9	
Princess Estate	157	5	31·8	
Roodepoort United Main Reef ...	1,311	62	47·3	
Saxon	182	2	11·0	
Vlakfontein	54	—	—	
Vogelstruis Estate	731	67	91·7	
East Rand Proprietary	4,685	390	83·2	
Ginsberg	1,040	37	35·6	
Kleinfontein	415	33	79·5	
Modderfontein	598	40	66·9	
Van Ryn	994	51	51·3	
East Rand Extension	157	5	38·2	10 months.
Goldenhuis Estate	877	46	52·5	
Goldenhuis Main Reef	377	17	45·1	
Simmer and Jack Proprietary... ...	1,989	167	84·0	
Simmer and Jack West...	391	20	51·2	
Jupiter	46	6	130·4	
New Primrose	1,519	96	63·2	
Carried forward	45,529	2,633		

Name of Mine.	Average No. of Natives employed.	No. of Deaths.	Death Rate per 1,000 per Annum.	Remarks.
Brought forward	45,529	2,633		
Glencairn Main Reef	1,204	103	85·5	
Knights Central	286	16	55·9	
May Consolidated	903	39	43·2	
Rietfontein A	995	62	62·3	
Rietfontein Estate	216	14	64·8	
Simmer and Jack East	619	53	85·6	
Witwatersrand	1,070	55	51·4	
Burham	295	4	20·3	8 months.
Central Gedult	123	6	48·8	
Nigel	1,055	33	31·3	
Buffelsdoorn Estate	115	3	52·2	6 months.
Hex River Exploration...	113	1	11·8	9 months.
Total	52,523	3,024	58·0	

Appendix 3.

Mortality among Natives employed on Gold Mines (Deep Levels) in Proclaimed Labour Districts, 1st July, 1903, to 30th June, 1904.

Name of Mine.	Average No. of Natives employed.	No. of Deaths.	Death Rate per 1,000 per Annum.	Remarks.
Jumpers Deep	1,003	66	65·8	
Nourse Deep	832	44	52·9	
Ferreira Deep	906	71	78·2	
Robinson Deep	1,795	157	87·5	
Village Deep	525	25	47·6	
Robinson Central Deep...	212	1	4·7	
Langlaagte Deep...	967	88	91·0	
Crown Deep	1,256	73	58·1	
Randfontein Deep	17	—	—	
Durban Roodepoort Deep	1,002	60	59·9	
Roodepoort Central Deep	699	43	47·8	
Vogelstruis Consolidated Deep ...	6	—	—	
West Roodepoort Deep	134	3	22·4	
Carried forward	9,554	631		

Name of Mine.	Average No. of Natives employed.	No. of Deaths.	Death Rate per 1,000 per Annum.	Remarks.
Brought forward	9,354	631		
Angelo Deep	173	15	86·7	
Cinderella Deep	155	13	83·9	
Driefontein Deep	241	10	41·5	
Wit Deep	913	96	105·1	
Goldenhuis Deep	1,505	85	56·5	
South Geldenhuis Deep	317	17	53·6	
Rose Deep	1,256	79	62·9	
Glen Deep	904	74	81·9	
Knights Deep	1,129	67	59·3	
South Rose Deep	377	23	61·0	
Nigel Deep	299	8	80·3	4 months.
Total	16,825	1,118	67·4	

Appendix 4.

Mortality among Natives employed on Coal Mines in Proclaimed Labour Districts, 1st July, 1903, to 30th June, 1904.

Name of Colliery.	Average No. of Natives employed.	No. of Deaths.	Death rate per 1,000 per Annum.	Remarks
Brakpan	742	64	86·3	
Clydesdale	896	84	93·7	
Tyne Valley	339	16	47·2	
Great Eastern	660	23	34·8	
Cassel Coal Company	407	45	110·6	
Rietfontein	357	19	53·2	
Victoria	53	—	—	6 months.
Witbank	1,375	52	75·6	Do.
Transvaal and Delagoa Bay	1,204	14	23·3	Do.
Middelburg Steam Coal and Coke ...	149	2	26·8	Do.
Coronation	318	16	100·6	Do.
Landau	318	4	25·2	Do.
Douglas	405	2	9·9	Do.
Crown	213	3	28·2	Do.
Apex	609	65	106·7	
Balmoral	26	—	—	
Vereeniging Estates	920	26	33·9	10 months.
Total	8,991	435	59·3	

APPENDIX 5.

MORTALITY AMONG NATIVES EMPLOYED ON DIAMOND MINES IN PROCLAIMED LABOUR DISTRICTS, 1ST MARCH, 1904, TO 30TH JUNE, 1904.

Name of Diamond Mine.	Average No. of Natives employed.	No. of Deaths.	Death rate per 1,000 per Annum.	Remarks.
Premier	1,777	5	8·4	4 months.
Montrose	68	—	—	Do.
Pretoria Districts	353	1	8·5	Do.
Kaalfontein	165	—	—	Do.
Schuller	87	1	34·5	Do.
Total...	2,450	7	8·6	

APPENDIX 6.

MORTALITY AMONG NATIVES EMPLOYED ON SURFACE WORKS IN PROCLAIMED LABOUR DISTRICTS, 1ST JULY, 1903, TO 30TH JUNE, 1904.

Name.	Average No. of Natives employed.	No. of Deaths.	Death Rate per 1,000 per Annum.	Remarks.
Robinson Chlorination Works... ...	74	4	54·1	
Rand Central Ore Reduction	116	—	—	
Nolan's Lime Works	255	6	23·5	
Cumming's Lime Works	64	4	62·5	
Krugersdorp Lime Works	3	—	—	
New Excelsior Lime Works	19	1	90·2	7 months.
Blue and White Lime Works	36	1	27·8	
Consolidated Rand Brick and Lime Co.	128	2	15·6	
Rand Central Electric Works	162	2	12·3	
Transvaal Chemical Co.	95	1	10·5	
General Electric Power Co.	67	—	—	
Dynamite Factory	770	19	24·7	
Cobalt Mine	42	—	—	
Edendale Estates	123	—	—	
Total	1,954	40	20·8	

APPENDIX 7.

TERRITORIAL ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY AMONG NATIVES EMPLOYED ON MINES AND WORKS IN PROCLAIMED LABOUR DISTRICTS, 1ST JULY, 1903, TO 30TH JUNE, 1904.

Territory.	Pneumonia.		Phthisis.		Other Respiratory Diseases.		Meningitis.		Enteric.		Dysentery.		Other Diarrhœal Diseases.		Scurvy.		Malaria.		Bubonic Plague.		Other Diseases.		Accidents.		Total.
	No. of Deaths.	Per Cent.	No. of Deaths.	Per Cent.	No. of Deaths.	Per Cent.	No. of Deaths.	Per Cent.	No. of Deaths.	Per Cent.	No. of Deaths.	Per Cent.	No. of Deaths.	Per Cent.	No. of Deaths	Per Cent.	No. of Deaths.	Per Cent.	No. of Deaths.	Per Cent.	No. of Deaths	Per Cent.	No. of Deaths.	Per Cent.	
Basutoland	56	56·57	3	3·03	2	2·02	—	—	2	2·02	6	6·06	1	1·01	9	9·09	1	1·01	—	—	6	6·06	13	13·13	99
British Buchanaland...	59	67·05	1	1·14	3	3·41	4	4·55	2	2·27	4	4·55	—	—	3	3·41	—	—	—	—	7	7·95	5	5·67	88
British Central Africa	73	58·87	6	4·84	4	3·23	2	1·61	1	·81	12	9·68	—	—	1	·81	2	1·61	—	—	6	4·84	17	13·71	124
Cape Colony	33	30·84	4	3·74	4	3·74	6	5·61	9	8·41	10	9·35	5	4·67	7	6·54	2	1·87	—	—	8	7·48	19	17·76	107
Natal and Zululand ...	15	26·79	5	8·93	3	5·36	—	—	3	5·36	4	7·14	1	1·79	3	5·36	—	—	—	—	11	19·64	11	19·64	56
Orange River Colony	3	60·00	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	20·00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	20·00	5
Portuguese Territory	1,660	44·64	236	6·35	125	3·36	302	8·12	117	3·15	276	7·42	80	2·15	167	4·49	65	1·75	14	·38	444	11·94	233	6·27	3,719
Rhodesia	8	50·00	1	6·25	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	12·50	—	—	1	6·25	1	6·25	—	—	2	12·50	1	6·25	16
Swaziland	8	30·77	—	—	—	—	2	7·69	1	3·85	1	3·85	—	—	4	15·38	1	3·85	—	—	5	19·23	4	15·38	26
Transvaal	158	48·47	19	5·83	17	5·21	19	5·83	12	3·68	21	6·44	5	1·53	13	3·99	1	·31	1	·31	35	10·74	25	7·67	326
Damaraland	29	51·79	2	3·57	8	14·29	—	—	1	1·79	2	3·57	—	—	1	1·79	3	5·36	—	—	6	10·71	4	7·14	56
Others	3	33·33	—	—	—	—	1	11·11	—	—	1	11·11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	33·33	1	11·11	9
	2,105	45·45	277	5·98	166	3·58	336	7·26	149	3·22	339	7·32	92	1·99	209	4·51	76	1·64	15	·32	533	11·51	334	7·21	4,631

A.—The figures shown in percentage columns indicate the percentage of deaths from each cause to the total number of deaths which have occurred among each tribe during the year.
B.—The figures shown in percentage columns of the total indicate the percentage of deaths from each cause to the total number of deaths for the year.

APPENDIX 8.

TERRITORIAL ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY AMONG NATIVES EMPLOYED ON MINES AND WORKS IN PROCLAIMED LABOUR DISTRICTS, 1ST JULY, 1903, TO 30TH JUNE, 1904.

Disease.	Basutoland.		British Bechuana-land.		British Central Africa.		Cape Colony.		Natal and Zululand.		Orange River Colony.		Portuguese Territory.		Rhodesia.		Swaziland.		Transvaal.		Damaraland.		Others.		Total.
	No. of Deaths.	Per Cent.	No of Deaths.	Per Cent.	No. of Deaths.	Per Cent.	No. of Deaths.	Per Cent.	No. of Deaths.	Per Cent.	No. of Deaths.	Per Cent.	No. of Deaths.	Per Cent.	No. of Deaths.	Per Cent.	No. of Deaths	Per Cent.	No. of Deaths.	Per Cent.	No. of Deaths.	Per Cent.	No. of Deaths.	Per Cent.	
Pneumonia	56	2·66	59	2·80	73	3·47	33	1·57	15	·71	3	·14	1,660	78·86	8	·38	8	·38	158	7·51	29	1·38	3	·14	2,105
Phthisis	3	1·08	1	·36	6	2·17	4	1·44	5	1·81	—	—	236	85·20	1	·36	—	—	19	6·86	2	·72	—	—	277
Other Respiratory Diseases.	2	1·20	3	1·81	4	2·41	4	2·41	3	1·81	—	—	125	75·30	—	—	—	—	17	10·24	8	4·82	—	—	166
Total	61	2·39	63	2·47	83	3·26	41	1·61	23	·90	3	·12	2,021	79·32	9	·35	8	·31	194	7·61	39	1·53	3	·12	2,548
Meningitis	—	—	4	1·19	2	·60	6	1·79	—	—	—	—	302	89·88	—	—	2	·60	19	5·65	—	—	1	·30	336
Enteric Fever... ...	2	1·34	2	1·34	1	·67	9	6·04	3	2·01	1	·67	117	78·52	—	—	1	·67	12	8·05	1	·67	—	—	149
Dysentery	6	1·77	4	1·18	12	3·54	10	2·95	4	1·18	—	—	276	81·42	2	·59	1	·29	21	6·19	2	·59	1	·29	339
Other Diarrhœal Diseases.	1	1·09	—	—	—	—	5	5·43	1	1·09	—	—	80	86·96	—	—	—	—	5	5·43	—	—	—	—	92
Scurvy	9	4·31	3	1·43	1	·48	7	3·35	3	1·43	—	—	167	79·90	1	·48	4	1·91	13	6·22	1	·48	—	—	209
Malaria...	1	1·32	—	—	2	2·63	2	2·63	—	—	—	—	65	85·53	1	1·32	1	1·32	1	1·32	3	3·95	—	—	76
Bubonic Plague ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	93·33	—	—	—	—	1	6·67	—	—	—	—	15
Other Diseases ...	6	1·13	7	1·31	6	1·13	8	1·50	11	2·06	—	—	444	83·30	2	·38	5	·94	35	6·57	6	1·13	3	·56	533
Accidents	13	3·89	5	1·50	17	5·09	19	5·69	11	3·29	1	·30	233	69·76	1	·30	4	1·20	25	7·49	4	1·20	1	·30	334
Grand Total ...	99	2·14	88	1·90	124	2·68	107	2·31	56	1·21	5	·11	3,719	80·31	16	·35	26	·56	326	7·04	56	1·21	9	·19	4,631

A.—The figures shown in percentage columns indicate the percentage of deaths which have occurred among Natives from each Territory to the total number of deaths from each cause during the year.
B.—The figures shown in the percentage columns of the total indicate the percentage of deaths which have occurred among Natives from each Territory to the total number of deaths which have occurred during the year.

Appendix 9.

Comparative Schedule showing Territorial Analysis of Labour Employed and Mortality from Disease on Mines and Works in Proclaimed Labour Districts, 1st July, 1903, to 30th June, 1904.

	Basutoland.	British Bechuanaland.	British Central Africa.	Cape Colony.	Natal and Zululand.	Orange River Colony.	Portuguese.	Rhodesia.	Swaziland.	Transvaal.	Demaraland.	Others.	Total
No. of Natives employed on Mines and Works.	1,398	842	923	5,751	2,365	244	52,169	411	438	12,157	731	138	77,567
Percentage	1·80	1·09	1·19	7·41	3·05	0·31	67·26	0·53	0·56	15·67	0·94	0·18	—
Mortality on Mines and Works 1st July, 1903, to 30th June, 1904.	86	83	107	88	45	4	3,486	15	22	301	52	8	4,297
Percentage	2·00	1·93	2·49	2·05	1·05	0·09	81·13	0·35	0·51	7·00	1·21	0·19	—
Mortality:													
Below Average ...	—	—	—	5·36	2·00	0·22	—	0·18	0·05	8·67	—	—	—
Above Average ...	0·20	0·84	1·30	—	—	—	13·87	—	—	—	0·27	0·01	—

Appendix 11.

Schedule of Mines in Labour Districts employing more than 240 Natives on which the Mortality from Disease exceeded 50 per Thousand per Annum for the Month of May, 1904.

Name of Mine.	No. of Natives employed.	Deaths from Disease.	Death Rate per 1,000 per annum.	Extent to which Mine Doctors' recommendations have been carried out.	Other Remarks.
Apex Mines ...	615	4	78·05	None of the recommendations as regards accommodation, &c., have been carried out.	The accommodation and treatment of natives on this mine are engaging the special attention of this department.
Clydesdale Colliery	849	4	56·54	Impervious floors have been laid down only in the hospital. Neither wooden bunks nor stoves have been supplied.	New natives are constantly being received among whom the death rate is high owing to severe climatic changes to which they are exposed on arrival from warm climates.
Crown Deep ...	1,236	6	58·25	All the recommendations have been carried out excepting as regards change houses.	Of the six natives who died two were Demaras who arrived in January and one a Swahili who arrived in February.
Coronation Colliery	357	8	268·91	The compound is being improved and extended.	The accommodation and treatment of natives on this mine are engaging our special attention.
Durban Deep ...	941	5	63·76	Fully carried out	Death rate from disease, 1st January to 30th April, 1904, averaged 44·91.
East Rand Proprietary.	5,016	25	59·81	Fully carried out	The treatment of natives employed on this group is excellent.
Glencairn	1,119	6	64·34	Impervious floors have not been laid down under the bunks. Bunks are not movable. Stoves with flues have not been provided. Meat ration only 1½ lbs.	

Name of Mine.	No. of Natives Employed.	Deaths from Disease.	Death Rate per 1,000 per annum.	Extent to which Mine Doctors' recommendations have been carried out.	Other Remarks.
Geldenhuis Deep ...	1,316	6	54·71	Recommendations as regards a separate building for hospital have not been carried out. Plans for a new hospital are however being prepared.	Mortality, 1st January to 30th April, 1904, averaged 31·96.
Kleinfontein Group	256	2	93·80	Will be fully carried out when the compound, now being built, is completed.	These are the only deaths which have occurred this year.
Langlaagte Estate ...	1,659	7	50·63	Recommendations carried out as regards diet and shelters. Impervious floors have not yet been laid down. Bunks and stoves with flues have not yet been supplied.	
New Primrose ...	1,459	17	139·82	Old pattern stoves are still in use. There are no change houses or impervious floors. The meat ration is less than the quantity recommended.	This mine has previously had a low death rate, average 1st January to 30th April, 1904, 31·72. Eleven of the deaths were among natives who had been employed less than four months on the mine.
New Unified ...	1,412	6	50·99	Fully carried out	Four deaths occurred among recent arrivals who had been employed only one month prior to death.
New Rietfontein Estate.	297	3	121·21	Only recommendations as regards diet and shelters have been carried out.	Average death rate for previous four months, 30·66.
Nourse Deep ...	768	4	62·50	Fully carried out	The diet, compound and hospital accommodation are good. Three of the four deaths were due to brain abscess, epilepsy and heart disease.
Randfontein Group	2,537	16	75·68	Open braziers are not yet replaced by stoves with flues. Morning coffee, soup, and treacle are not included in dietary.	The Medical Officer of this Group attributes the high rate of mortality to the number of recruits recently allotted to them.
Simmer and Jack West.	408	2	58·82	Recommendations have not been carried out except as regards diet.	The death rate during this month was unusually high. Average for previous four months 7·24, only one death having occurred.
Simmer and Jack East.	673	5	89·15	Impervious floors, stoves with flues, and movable bunks have not been provided. The meat ration is only 1¼ lbs. per week.	
Van Ryn Estate ...	1,092	6	65·93	The rations are equally as good as those recommended. Other recommendations have not yet been carried out. A well equipped hospital is nearly completed.	Average death rate from disease for previous four months, 38·72.
Witbank Colliery ...	1,332	9	81·08	Fully carried out	The high mortality during this month is due to plague, which broke out on this Mine.

N.B.—In all cases the mortality has been calculated on deaths from disease exclusive of accidents.

APPENDIX 12.

SCHEDULE OF MINES IN LABOUR DISTRICTS EMPLOYING MORE THAN 240 NATIVES ON WHICH THE MORTALITY FROM DISEASE EXCEEDED 50 PER THOUSAND PER ANNUM FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE, 1904.

Name of Mine.	No. of Natives Employed.	Deaths from Disease.	Death Rate per 1,000 per Annum.	Extent to which Mine Doctors' Recommendations have been carried out.	Other Remarks.
Burham	384	2	62·5	The doctor's recommendations have not been carried out in any way.	This mine belongs to a private syndicate. It will probably close down in a very short time.
Clydesdale Colliery	978	5	61·3	No cylindrical stoves, impervious floors, or movable wooden bunks have been supplied, nor is treacle provided.	
Coronation Colliery	385	4	124·7	As regards rations the recommendations of the mine doctors have not been carried out.	The four deaths were due to the following diseases: —Phthisis, tubercular disease, scurvy, and influenza. The manager of this mine has since been dismissed and the necessary improvements have already been taken in hand by his successor.
De Rietfontein Colliery.	325	3	110·8	No cylindrical stoves, impervious floors, or wooden bunks have been furnished, nor is treacle supplied.	The three deaths were due to pneumonia, enteric, and rheumatic fever.
East Rand Proprietary.	4,760	20	50·4	All recommendations fully carried out.	Fourteen of the 20 deaths were due to respiratory diseases, four to cardiac diseases, one to meningitis, and one to rheumatism.
Geldenhuis Deep ...	1,326	7	63·3	All recommendations *re* compound and diet have been well carried out, but at present there is no proper hospital.	Plans for a new hospital have been prepared and it will shortly be erected.
Glen Deep	784	11	168·4	Most of the recommendations have been carried out, but only 1½ lbs. of meat are supplied to each native per week.	Five of the 11 deaths on this mine occurred amongst natives recruited in British Central Africa, see special report of Medical Officer of Health attached.
Lancaster	943	4	50·9	There is no proper hospital or bath erected on this mine, nor is treacle supplied.	Improvements are been carried out gradually.
Langlaagte Deep ...	887	4	54·1	Recommendations have been or are in course of being carried out.	The death rate for the five previous months of this year was 28·4 per thousand per annum.
Langlaagte Estate...	1,593	9	67·8	Recommendations have only been partially carried out.	Five out of the nine deaths occurred amongst natives who had only been on the mine for three months.
May Consolidated...	909	4	52·8	With the exceptions that the meat ration is only 1 lb. per native per week and that there is no cooking plant, the recommendations have been fully carried out.	Two of the four deaths were due to enteric, one to malaria, and one to chronic nephritis.

Name of Mine.	No. of Natives Employed.	Deaths from Disease.	Death Rate per 1,000 per Annum.	Extent to which Mine Doctors' Recommendations have been carried out.	Other Remarks.
New Heriot ...	719	4	66·8	The housing, hospital, and diet recommendations have been carried out, but the sanitary and water schemes only partially so.	The four deaths were due to asthma, septicaemia, malaria, and cancer.
North Randfontein	772	4	62·2	Both these mines are closed down and their natives have been working on the Robinson Randfontein and South Randfontein.	
and Porges Randfontein	277	3	130·0		
Robinson	1,628	9	66·3	Bunks are not supplied, natives provide their own beds, neither stoves nor iron flues have been supplied. Other recommendations have been carried out.	Bunks have been ordered. The death-rate on this mine for the five previous months of this year was 34·6 per 1,000 per annum.
Robinson Randfontein.	1,382	6	52·1	Recommendations *re* diet have not been carried out.	Hospital, latrines, and baths have all been improved.
Rose Deep	1,290	6	55·8	All recommendations have been carried out with the exception that only 1½ lbs. of meat is supplied per native per week.	A new hospital has been erected.
Simmer and Jack Proprietary.	1,988	9	54·3	All recommendations have been well carried out.	Five out of the nine deaths were due to respiratory diseases.
Vogelstruis Estate	744	5	80·6	All recommendations have been fully carried out.	The five deaths were due to pneumonia (two), dysentery, meningitis, and cardiac disease.
Windsor	565	3	63·7	Few recommendations have been carried out.	The erection of a new hospital is contemplated.

N.B.—In all cases the death-rate has been calculated exclusive of accidents.

(Annexure to Appendix 12.)

EXTRACT from Report of Medical Officer of Health, dated June 17, 1904.

I visited the Glen Deep Compound this morning and inspected the British Central Africa boys employed there and find them in good health, the quarters satisfactory, and the food (which was being cooked at the time) good. I think the meat ration might be increased to 2 lbs. per week at least. Three boys were in hospital and being well cared for.

I find two natives died in April from pneumonia and one in May from meningitis, all these were underground workers. The temperature underground is considerably higher than the surface and although a change house (where hot coffee is cooked and served out) is placed at the shaft mouth, the natives are careless when coming up from work heated and perspiring and do not put on the thick clothing

provided for them. I urged the compound manager to place a police guard at the exit of the change house to turn back those not properly clad and was promised that this should be done.

No. 11.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received October 1, 1904.)

SIR, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, September 12, 1904.

WITH reference to my despatch of to-day,* I have the honour to transmit to you a return of mortality among Chinese labourers employed in the mines of the Witwatersrand for the month of August, which has been furnished by the Labour Importation Agency of the Chamber of Mines.

I have, &c.,
MILNER,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 11.

THE CHAMBER OF MINES LABOUR IMPORTATION AGENCY, LIMITED.

Return of mortality amongst Chinese labourers employed by members during the month of August, 1904.

Beri-beri and heart failure	3
Phthisis	1
Dysentery	1
Heart disease	1
	6
Number employed at 31st August, 1904	4,947
Percentage of deaths	0.12 per cent.

Johannesburg,
September 9, 1904.

No. 12.

MR. LYTTELTON to GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER.

(Sent 4.10 p.m., October 19, 1904.)

TELEGRAM.

[*Answered by Nos.* 14 *and* 28.]

October 19. No. 1. Newspaper telegram states that serious disturbances have occurred during past few days in Aurora West, Geduld, and Glen Deep Mines among Chinese labourers. Please report briefly what has happened.

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* No. 10.

No. 13.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received 4.10 p.m., October 22, 1904.)

TELEGRAM.

October 22. No. 3. Your telegram of 30th September, No. 1.* I have now received official figures showing total increase of white labourers in mines of Witwatersrand during five months May to September amounts to 1,736.

No. 14.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received 8 p.m., October 22, 1904.)

TELEGRAM.

[*See No.* 12.]

(Extract.)

October 22. No. 4. I fancy newspaper reports are largely exaggerated. Disturbance at Aurora West took place on 16th October, when a number of Chinamen did some damage to compound and then marched out in a body. Fourteen were arrested by police and charged before Magistrate. The rest returned quietly to their quarters. At Geduld thirty-three coolies refused to work on 17th October and a white foreman was knocked down. Riot occurred on arrival of police to arrest culprits but order was quickly restored. Disturbance at Glen Deep occurred 11th October, owing to quarrel of Chinese with their own police. It was of short duration and resulted in arrest of six ringleaders. In two former cases cause seems to have been the same, viz., small amount of wages received on first pay-day owing to legal deductions on account of advances made in China and allotment of pay to dependents there. These are entirely voluntary and are perfectly well understood by Chinese themselves. Quarrels between coolies and Chinese police may possibly be due to fact that latter are not of sufficiently superior social standing to enable them to enforce authority without jealousy and friction. This point is receiving full consideration by mine owners. Personally I do not see any cause for alarm in these slight disturbances, which are sure to occur at first in experiment of importing alien labour to strange conditions and to which little importance is attached locally. I may say that similar disturbances always have occurred from time to time in Kaffir compounds.

No. 15.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received November 19, 1904.)

SIR, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, October 31, 1904.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 12th September,† I have the honour to enclose, for your information, a copy of a statement for the month of September, 1904, on the subject of mortality amongst Chinese labourers on the Rand.

I have, &c.,
MILNER,
Governor.

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* No. 9. † No. 11.

Enclosure in No. 15.

THE CHAMBER OF MINES LABOUR IMPORTATION AGENCY, LIMITED.

STATEMENT showing mortality amongst Chinese Labourers during the month of September, 1904.

Beri Beri	9
Enteritis	3
Meningitis	1
Phthisis	1
Dysentery	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	1
Congestion of Lungs	1
Pneumonia	1
Accident	1
Total	19

Total employed at 30th September, 1904—9,039.

19=0.21 per cent.

Johannesburg, October 12, 1904.

No. 16.

MR. LYTTELTON to GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER.

MY LORD, Downing Street, November 23, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 12th September,* forwarding a report by the Acting Commissioner for Native Affairs on the mortality among the natives employed in the Transvaal Gold Mines.

I observe with satisfaction that the death rate for the period January to June, 1904, was only 40.55 as compared with 80.05 for the period July to December, 1903.

But I observe also that the death rate for the whole period July, 1903, to June, 1904, was 59.11 as compared with 60.59 for the period July, 1902, to June, 1903 (see page 152 of the Parliamentary Paper Cd. 2025).

It is necessary, therefore, to bear in mind the statement of the mine doctors quoted in my telegram of the 9th May, No. 3 (page 153 *ibid*) that the adoption of their recommendations ought to bring about the reduction of the rate of mortality at least to 40 per thousand.

I feel sure that every effort will be made to keep the rate down to 40 per thousand or less.

I have, &c.,
ALFRED LYTTELTON.

No. 17.

MR. LYTTELTON to GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER.

(Sent 12.30 p.m., November 25, 1904.)

TELEGRAM.

[*Answered by No.* 19.]

November 25. No. 1. Under what law or laws were the several sentences imposed on the coolies who assaulted white manager and were convicted of rioting at Geduld Mine, as reported in "Star," 22nd October?

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* No. 10.

No. 18.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received December 5, 1904.)

SIR, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, November 14, 1904.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 31st October* I have the honour to enclose, for your information, a copy of a statement for the month of October, 1904, on the subject of mortality amongst Chinese labourers on the Rand.

I have, &c.,
MILNER,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 18.

CHAMBER OF MINES LABOUR IMPORTATION AGENCY, LIMITED.

Statement showing Mortality amongst Chinese Labourers employed by Members during the month of October, 1904.

Beri-beri	12
Accident	2
Dysentery	2
Colitis	2
Enteric Fever	1
Nephritis	1
Empyema	1
Acute Diarrhœa	1
Rupture of Aortic (Aneurism into Pericardium)	1
Purpura	1
Cause unknown, but believed to be suicide by opium drinking. (Contents of stomach are being analysed.) ...	1
	25

No. of coolies in employ of members at 31.10.04=12,968.

25=.19 per cent. of total employed.

Johannesburg,
November 10, 1904.

No. 19.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received 7.15 p.m., December 6, 1904.)

TELEGRAM.

December 6. No. 1. Your telegram of 25th November, No. 1.† Thirty-nine Chinese labourers charged with (1) public violence (2) assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm on 21st October. Sentences of four months' imprisonment with hard labour on each on first charge. On second charge five sentenced to be imprisoned with hard labour for two months and to whipping twenty strokes. Sentences of imprisonment run concurrently. Both offences common law offences but punishment of whipping is imposed by Section 38 of Ordinance 26 of 1904 Crimes Ordinance. By the law of Colony no sentence of whipping imposed by a Magistrate can be carried out till record sent to and sentence confirmed by Judge of Supreme Court. These sentences confirmed by Judge and certified under Section 39 of Magistrates' Court Proclamation, 1902.

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* No. 15. † No. 17.

No. 20.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received 9.35 p.m., December 8, 1904.)

TELEGRAM.

[*Answered by No.* 24.]

December 8. No. 1. Referring to my telegram of 22nd October, No. 3,* further increase of white labourers in mines of Witwatersrand in month of October is officially returned as 82.

No. 21.

MR. LYTTELTON to GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER.

[*Answered by No.* 37.]

MY LORD, Downing Street, December 8, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 7th of November,† forwarding statistics of natives holding passports and working in labour districts in the Transvaal during July and August.

2. I notice that between the 30th of June and the 31st of August the total number of natives decreased from 133,283 to 129,922, the number in private employ increasing by 1,812 and the number in the mines decreasing by 5,173. I shall be glad to be supplied with an explanation of the decrease and of the change in the proportion between the two classes of employés.

I have, &c.,
ALFRED LYTTELTON.

No. 22.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received December 17, 1904.)

SIR, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, November 28, 1904.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 12th of September‡ I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of a report received from the Superintendent of Foreign Labour as to the suitability of the arrangements made for the reception and accommodation of Chinese labourers engaged for the Transvaal mines.

I have, &c.,
MILNER,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 22.

REPORT.

Up to the present there have arrived on the Rand 15,199 Chinese indentured for labour on the gold mines of the Witwatersrand. Of these 1,454 have come from Hong Kong and the remainder, 13,745, from the north of China.

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* No. 13. † Not printed. ‡ No. 10.

They have been distributed amongst ten mines, the largest number employed on any one mine being 3,250 on the "Simmer and Jack," and the smallest number being 260 on the "South Nourse." The majority of the other mines employ from 1,000 upwards.

The labourers on arrival at Durban are accommodated in a spacious depôt with large, airy rooms, fine open quadrangle for exercise or recreation, first-rate kitchen, baths, latrines, wash-houses, electric light, and hospital with separate entrance.

My office, in which identification of labourers and registration of contracts is carried out, stands between the two quadrangles forming the depôt, each of which accommodates 2,000 men, and is provided with kitchen and sanitary arrangements, &c., so that the two may be used independently. Outside are offices and quarters for the officers employed at the depôt.

This depôt is about five miles from the wharf alongside of which the ship is berthed, and the labourers are taken up in trains as quickly as they can be disembarked.

After the identification and registration are completed the labourers are entrained for the Rand, one train being despatched each day until the whole shipment has left.

The train consists of ordinary third-class carriages open from end to end—still to be seen on some of the English lines. The centre compartment of each coach has been built up, with a door on either side, and fitted as a latrine. The train is lighted throughout with electricity, and drinking water is supplied in each carriage. During the winter months an extra blanket was served out at Durban in addition to the one which each labourer brings in his kit from China.

The train leaves at 8.40 a.m., and is run at the daily "1st and 2nd class only" speed, arriving on the Rand about 11 a.m. the following day.

At Pietermaritzburg dinner, at Estcourt supper, and at Standerton breakfast is served on the train. The refreshment contractor's attendants go down the platforms with a can of rice, a mess-kid of meat and vegetables, and one of potatoes for each compartment. A big can of tea and a loaf of bread for each man is added. The meals are well cooked and nicely served, are very appetising and thoroughly appreciated.

On arrival on the Rand the train is, as a rule, run on to the mine siding, and the labourers detrained close to the compound gates.

They are marched off to the compound and told off to their rooms, and as soon as they are ready a light meal of tea and bread is served.

When at work there are two good meals a day—breakfast and supper. Tea and bread are taken down below by labourers employed underground.

The quarters provided by the different mines are light and airy. Detailed plans of rooms, kitchens, bath-houses, latrines and hospitals are submitted to me and to the Medical Officer of Health, Pretoria. I inspect the premises at intervals during erection, and my suggestions, if any, as to improvements in accommodation or ventilation are always attended to. The number of labourers to be accommodated in any compound is calculated according to the cubic capacity of the rooms, and a license to import issued accordingly. A stove with special ventilating chimney is erected in each room, and during the winter months an extra blanket was served out where necessary.

Change houses are provided at the shaft head, but are not much used at present as the weather is mild.

Hospitals with ample accommodation, up-to-date arrangements, Chinese assistants and European doctors are established on each mine, and are open to any labourer complaining of illness.

I am of opinion that the arrangements for the accommodation of the Chinese labourers are sufficient and suitable. They are in every case much superior to what the labourers are accustomed to in China. Everything that can be done for their comfort and health is done; and bearing in mind the fact that all of these men are accustomed to cold winters and hot summers, and the majority of them to much more severe changes of climate than they will experience here, I feel that with ordinary care on their part there is little or no danger of their falling victims to the climate of the Rand.

W. EVANS,
Superintendent.

Foreign Labour Department,
Johannesburg,
November, 1904.

No. 23.

HIGH COMMISSIONER VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received December 24, 1904.)

SIR, High Commissioner's Office, Johannesburg, December 5, 1904.

WITH reference to your despatch of June 22nd,* I have the honour to forward a return of the mortality in the South African mines for the period July 1st, 1904, to September 30th, 1904, inclusive.

I regret that I was not able to forward it sooner, as the figures for Southern Rhodesia did not reach this office till November 30th, and then in an incomplete condition, the necessary data for furnishing statistics relating to white miners being unavailable.

I have, &c.,
MILNER,
High Commissioner.

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* Not printed ; the despatch enclosed a copy of a question asked in the House of Commons by Mr. Trevelyan on 20th June. *See Hansard*, p. 462.

Enclosure in No. 23.

Mortality Returns for the Period July 1st, 1904, to September 30th, 1904.

	Cape Colony.				Natal.				Orange River Colony.				Transvaal.				Southern Rhodesia.			
	White.	Yellow.	Black.	Total.	White.	Yellow.	Black.	Total.	White.	Yellow.	Black.	Total.	White.	Yellow.	Black.	Total.	White.	Yellow.	Black.	Total.
Number of deaths from accidents, including homicide and suicide.	2	—	5	7	1	—	2	3	—	—	5	5	22	3	84	109	?	—	8	?
Rate per 1,000 per annum ...	2·48	—	1·02	1·22	18·100	—	1·782	2·548	—	—	3·58	3·11	5·869	2·345	3·933	4·131	?	—	4·74	?
Number of deaths from diseases, &c.	1	—	116	117	—	—	19	19	—	—	15	15	60	27	711	798	?	—	49	?
Rate per 1,000 per annum ...	1·24	—	23·66	20·50	—	—	16·934	16·139	—	—	10·76	9·32	16·007	21·106	33·292	30·245	?	—	29·03	?
Total number of deaths from all causes.	3	—	121	124	1	—	21	22	—	—	20	20	82	30	795	907	?	—	57	?
Rate per 1,000 per annum ...	3·72	—	24·68	21·72	18·100	—	18·716	18·687	—	—	14·36	12·45	21·876	23·451	37·225	34·376	?	—	33·77	?
Average number of employees ...	3,226	—	19,610	22,836	221	—	4,488	4,709	850	—	5,575	6,425	14,993	5,117	85,425	105,536	?	—	6,781	?

No. 24.

MR. LYTTELTON to GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER.

[Answered by No. 47.]

MY LORD, Downing Street, December 24, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 8th December, No. 1,* stating that the further increase of the number of white labourers in the Witwatersrand mines in October amounted to 82.

2. I observe that the rate of increase during the five months May to September, which it appears from your telegram of the 22nd October, No. 3,† averaged 347 a month, has not been maintained, and, in this connection, I would invite your attention to the enclosed table of figures, extracted from the monthly statistics of the Mines Department, which has been published in the "Westminster Gazette" by Mr. Cresswell.

3. You will observe that, according to these figures, the proportion of white to coloured employés in January, 1903, was 1 to 4.4, in January, 1904, 1 to 5.8, in August, 1904, 1 to 5.4, in September, 1 to 5.8, and that if the increase in the number of white labourers continues to be at the rate which obtained in September and October this year, the proportion of white to coloured employés in April next, assuming that the number of native labourers employed remains at 75,000, and that of Chinese rises to 30,000, will be 1 to 7, which is approximately the proportion which obtained in 1898.

4. It is not perhaps a matter for surprise that there should have been a much larger increase in the number of white overseers and artificers employed in the Rand during the first two or three months of the importation of Chinese labour than during the subsequent months, but in view of the foregoing considerations, I should be glad to receive any explanation which you may wish to offer of the figures to which I have called your attention.

I have, &c.,
ALFRED LYTTELTON.

Enclosure in No. 24.

Month.	Number of men employed on last working day of each month.			Coloured.		White.	
	White.	Coloured.					
		Native.	Chinese.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.
1903.							
January	10,783	48,058	—	—	—	—	—
February	10,879	51,540	—	3,482	—	96	—
March	11,166	56,577	—	5,037	—	287	—
April	11,305	60,557	—	3,980	—	139	—
May	11,439	64,480	—	3,923	—	134	—
June	11,825	66,221	—	1,741	—	386	—
July	11,873	68,217	—	1,996	—	48	—
August	12,140	69,688	—	1,471	—	267	—

* No. 20. † No. 13.

Month.	Number of men employed on last working day of each month.			Coloured.		White.	
	White.	Coloured.					
		Native.	Chinese.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.
1903—*contd.*							
September	12,491	70,255	—	567	—	357	—
October	12,456	71,659	—	1,404	—	—	35
November	12,774	72,748	—	1,089	—	318	—
December	12,702	73,622	—	874	—	—	72
1904.							
January	12,814	75,027	—	1,405	—	112	—
February	12,801	77,899	—	2,872	—	—	13
March	12,681	79,569	—	1,670	—	—	20
April	12,740	78,825	—	—	744	59	—
May	13,127	77,519	—	—	1,306	387	—
June	13,413	74,632	1,004	—	1,883	286	—
July	13,707	73,370	1,388	—	878	294	—
August	14,333	73,148	4,945	3,335	—	626	—
September	14,421	75,394	9,020	6,317	—	88	—

No. 25.

GOVERNOR LORD PLUNKET (NEW ZEALAND) to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received December 26, 1904.)

[*Answered by No.* 34.]

SIR, Wellington, November 10, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have received Addresses from the Legislative Council, and from the House of Representatives of this Colony, in which I am requested to transmit to you the following resolution, which both the Council and the House have recently passed:

"That this $\frac{\text{Council}}{\text{House}}$ deeply regrets the introduction of Chinese labour into the Transvaal without the expressed and direct sanction of the white population by vote having been first obtained or Responsible Government being granted."

I have, &c.,
PLUNKET,
Governor.

No. 26

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received December 31, 1904.)

SIR, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, December 12, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, under separate cover, two copies of the statistics of the Transvaal Mines Department for the month of October, 1904.*

I have, &c.,
MILNER,
Governor.

Enclosures in No. 26.

MINES DEPARTMENT, TRANSVAAL.

Statistics for the month of October, 1904.

ABSTRACT.

The following are the principal items to be noted in connection with the statistics for the month:—

LABOUR (Statement No. 6).

Gold Mines.	Whites.	Coloured.	Chinese.
Witwatersrand Area	13,857	72,525	12,965
Other Districts	668	5,966	—
Totals for the Transvaal ...	14,525	78,491	12,965

Percentage of Coloured Persons not at work on the last day of the month ... 7·35
Percentage of Chinese not at work on the last day of the month ... ... 12·87

Coal Mines.	Whites.	Coloured.
Totals for the Transvaal	468	9,053

Percentage of Coloured Persons not at work on the last day of the month ... 9·53

Diamond Mines.	Whites.	Coloured.
Totals for the Transvaal	351	3,082

Percentage of Coloured Persons not at work on the last day of the month ... 6·39

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* Only the Abstract, the Summary of Gold Production, and the Statement of white and coloured persons in the employ of Companies and Companies' Contractors are printed. Progressive totals from October, 1903, will be found in No. 46. Later statistics are printed in Nos. 35 and 46.

GOLD OUTPUT (Statements Nos. 1, 2, and 3).

——	Fine Gold, ozs.	Value, £.
Witwatersrand Area	313,192·873	1,330,354
Other Districts	10,496·664	44,590
Total for the Transvaal ...	323,689·537	1,374,944

COAL OUTPUT (Statement No. 4).

——	Tons.	Value, £.
Total for the Transvaal	204,129	73,481

SILVER OUTPUT.

——	Fine Silver, ozs.	Value, £.
Total for the Transvaal	35,295·858	3,776

DIAMOND OUTPUT (Statement No. 5).

——	Weight, Carats.	Value, £.
Total for the Transvaal	84,154·81	106,344

Statement No. 6, October, 1904.

A.—NUMBER OF PERSONS (WHITE AND COLOURED) IN THE EMPLOY OF COMPANIES AND COMPANIES' CONTRACTORS ON THE 31ST OCTOBER, 1904.

DISTRICT.	GOLD MINES									COAL MINES.						DIAMOND MINES.						OTHER MINES (Cobalt, Tin, Lead, Copper, Magnesite).		METALLURGICAL AND CHEMICAL WORKS.		TAILINGS SYNDICATES.		ALLUVIAL WORKINGS, &C.		GRAND TOTALS.		
	PRODUCING.			NON-PRODUCING.			TOTALS.			PRODUCING.		NON-PRODUCING.		TOTALS.		PRODUCING.		NON-PRODUCING.		TOTALS.												
	Whites.	Coloured.	Chinese.	Whites.	Coloured.	Chinese.	Whites.	Coloured.	Chinese.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Chinese.
Witwatersrand Area ..	11,017	64,542	7,984	2,840	7,983	4,981	13,857	72,525	12,965	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19	107	5	22	—	—	**13,881**	**72,654**	**12,965**
Heidelberg Magisterial District.	91	882	—	69	422	—	160	1,304	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	**160**	**1,304**	—
Pretoria District (Barberton, Lydenburg and Pietersburg).	368	3,747	—	60	413	—	428	4,160	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	344	3,028	7	51	351	3,082	40	468	—	—	—	—	25	57	**844**	**7,767**	—
Potchefstroom Magisterial District (including Klerksdorp).	48	261	—	32	241	—	80	502	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	**80**	**502**	—
Springs-Brakpan Area ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	176	3,492	—	—	176	3,492	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	**176**	**3,492**	—
Middelburg Area	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	198	4,339	3	23	201	4,362	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	**201**	**4,362**	—
Other Districts	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	91	1,199	—	—	91	1,199	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	**91**	**1,199**	—
Grand Totals ..	**11,524**	**69,432**	**7,984**	**3,001**	**9,059**	**4,981**	**14,525**	***78,491**	**12,965**	**465**	**9,030**	**3**	**23**	**468**	**9,053**	**344**	**3,028**	**7**	**54**	**351**	**3,082**	**40**	**468**	**19**	**107**	**5**	**22**	**25**	**57**	**15,433**	***91,280**	**12,965**

* These figures do not include 667 coloured convicts

No. 27.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received December 31, 1904.)

SIR, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, December 12, 1904.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 14th November,* I have the honour to enclose, for your information, a copy of a Statement for the month of November, 1904, on the subject of mortality amongst Chinese labourers on the Rand.

I have, &c.,
MILNER,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 27.

THE CHAMBER OF MINES LABOUR IMPORTATION AGENCY, LIMITED.

RETURN of mortality amongst Chinese labourers during the month of November, 1904.

Beri-beri	12
Malaria	1
Pneumonia	1
Accident	5
Dysentery	3
Enteritis	1
Nephritis	3
Tuberculosis	1
Gastritis	2
Acute Bronchitis	2
Murdered	4
Debility	1
Epilepsy	1
Cause unknown (post mortem pending)	1
	38

Average number of coolies in employ of members during the month = 15,222.
38 = 0.24 per cent. of average number employed.

Johannesburg, December 6, 1904.

No. 28.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received December 31, 1904.)

SIR, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, December 12, 1904.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 22nd of October, No. 4,† I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of a report by the Superintendent of Foreign Labour on the various disturbances which have occurred among the Chinese coolies on the Witwatersrand since their arrival.

I have, &c.,
MILNER,
Governor.

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* No. 18.

† No. 14.

Enclosure in No. 28.

REPORT ON DISTURBANCES.

Since the first arrival of the Chinese on the Rand there have been the following disturbances in which the management considered it necessary to call in the assistance of the police. In every case white police only were engaged, no natives being ever called in to deal with the Chinese:—

No. 1, East Rand Proprietary Mines, July 22nd.
No. 2, Van Ryn Gold Mines Estate, August .
No. 3, North Randfontein Gold Mines Company, Limited, August
No. 4, Glen Deep, Limited, September 16th.
No. 5, New Kleinfontein Company, Limited, September 17th.
No. 6, Van Ryn Gold Mines Estate, September 17th.
No. 7, Glen Deep, Limited, October 11th.
No. 8, Aurora West United Gold Mining Company, October 17th.
No. 9, Geduld Proprietary Mines, October 17th.
No. 10, French Rand Gold Mining Company, October 24th.
No. 11, Van Ryn Gold Mines Estate, November 18th.
No. 12, New Kleinfontein Company, Limited, November 19th.
No. 13, French Rand Gold Mining Company, November 19th.
No. 14, New Kleinfontein Company, Limited, November 23rd.

No. 1, East Rand Proprietary Mines, Limited.

This disturbance arose from the alarm caused by a mine explosion in which two men were killed.

It culminated in the men of the night shift refusing to turn out. Stones were thrown at some of the mine officials when they tried to induce them to go to work. A number of men were arrested and sentenced to varying terms of imprisonment.

Nos. 2, 6, *and* 11.

All occurred at the Van Ryn Estate, and in my opinion are three acts of the same quarrel. The disturbance in August was a small matter, being a quarrel and fight between some of the labourers and the cooks and police.

On the 17th September, however, a more serious riot took place, in which one of the Chinese Police had his leg broken, and others were hurt. Several of the labourers were imprisoned for this fight, and one of them was heard to say that he would have his revenge when he came out. A few days after the release from prison of these men the two Chinese Policemen who took the most active part in getting the rioters imprisoned were murdered in their room. A fracas then took place in the compound, one labourer being killed and another mortally injured. These two are alleged to have been killed by the police to avenge the death of their comrades.

I attach a copy of the Coroner's Notes giving all the details which came to light.

I should add that from the first disturbance the General Mining and Finance Corporation, who control the Van Ryn Estate, were advised to transfer the labourers, who apparently were causing the trouble, to another of their mines, and were also strongly advised to obtain the services of a European overseer who understands the Chinese and speaks their language. This has been done with but few exceptions by every mine employing Chinese labour. The General Manager, however, did not agree with this advice, and did not carry it out.

Nos. 3 *and* 5.

Occurred at North Randfontein. The first was a small misunderstanding about the deductions made from their pay on the first day. The second was more serious. It began with a fight between a Kaffir and a Chinese. The Kaffir took refuge in the

timekeeper's office, and the Chinese Headmen demanded his surrender in order to inquire into the matter and punish him. This was refused, and after a short discussion the Headmen ran off to the compound, blew their whistles to call out the labourers, and led them in a Kaffir hunting expedition. Fortunately, the Kaffirs, as a rule, had bare feet, and the Chinese had miner's boots, so that no Kaffirs were caught. They then attacked a Kaffir location, and began pulling the huts to pieces, when a small body of Mounted Police rode up, and after some difficulty, marshalled them all back into the compound. For this twenty Headmen were charged, and sentenced to three months' hard labour each. Since then there has been no trouble on this mine.

Nos. 4 *and* 7.

Were at the Glen Deep and were not of the least importance.
I consider the Glen Deep quite one of the best managed mines.

Nos. 8 *and* 10.

Were small fights among the labourers which were only reported because the police had to be called in to arrest some of the rioters.

No. 9.

Was at the Geduld and started during the absence from the mine of the overseer, who came with them from China. It was the only disturbance in which a direct attack was made upon Europeans. I have discussed the matter fully with the mine management, who have given such instructions to their employees as will obviate any possibility of ill-treatment or bullying such as was alleged to be the cause of this disturbance. I am certain that any bullying that did take place must have been of a very mild character, as no complaints had been made to their overseer whom they loved and respected nor to this Department on any of their many visits.

No. 12.

Was an entirely unexpected disturbance, which subsided as quickly as it arose. At 3 o'clock one Saturday afternoon, about four days after the labourers had arrived on the Rand, I was at the New Kleinfontein Company's mine. I went all through the compound, going into rooms and talking to the men. They were all cheerful and good-tempered, and expressed themselves as well pleased with accommodation, food, work, and treatment. About an hour after my departure something went wrong with the cooking apparatus, and a makeshift dinner had to be substituted. This raised a suspicion that they were being cheated, and they attacked the kitchen, smashing some windows, and chased their head policeman over the veld. An hour later they were expressing their contrition to my Chief Inspector, and thanking him for all the care and attention we were giving them.

No. 14.

On the 23rd November they had a small fracas with some Kaffirs, the disturbance beginning with a fight between a Kaffir and a labourer.

No. 13.

This was a faction fight in the compound at the French Rand. I gather that a Triad Society is at the bottom of it; but I am not yet in a position to report fully.

Notwithstanding these little disturbances there is no doubt that the labourers are in general contented, and settling down quietly. There are no signs of ill-feeling against the management or against the Kaffirs. Each disturbance subsides as quickly as it arises, and the men who one hour are ready for any mischief the next hour are shouldering their "jumpers" and going down for their shift. None of these disturbances have caused any serious stoppage of work on the mines, and none of them, with the exception of the Van Ryn murders, have left any ill-feeling behind.

There is no question as to the success of the scheme. I feel sure that the longer the Chinese are here, and the more there are of them in this district the fewer will be the riots or disturbances amongst them.

The majority of these disturbances have arisen from misunderstandings, and the more old hands there are to whom new-comers can appeal for explanation the less chance there will be of a riot.

The men work well; they are amenable to discipline; they have no particular vices which should make them a danger to the country; the only disease which has been at all noticeable amongst them is beri-beri, which I believe is generally considered to be neither infectious nor contagious; they spend their money freely in the country, and I feel quite sure that at the end of the period of the indenture both employers and employees will be sorry to part, and that employers of labour other than mine owners will be clamouring for inclusion in the Labour Importation Ordinance.

W. EVANS,
Superintendent.

Foreign Labour Department,
Johannesburg.

No. 29.

THE TRANSVAAL CHAMBER OF MINES to COLONIAL OFFICE.

(Received January 11, 1905.)

Transvaal Chamber of Mines, Johannesburg.
London Offices:—
202, 203, and 206, Salisbury House,
Finsbury Circus, London, E.C., January 10, 1905.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have this day received a cablegram from the Chamber at Johannesburg giving the gold output and labour returns of the Transvaal for the month of December, and enclose herein a statement giving the details. Also total gold output for the Transvaal for the year 1904.

I have, &c.,
A. R. GOLDING,
London Secretary.

Enclosure 1 in No. 29.

January 10, 1905.

NATIVE LABOUR.

Natives distributed to mines during December, 1904, by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association	8,655
Time-expired and other wastage	6,277
Nett gain during December	2,378
Number employed at end of December	76,611
Allotted to railways	nil

Enclosure 2 in No. 29.

January 10, 1905.

GOLD OUTPUT, Transvaal, for the month of December, 1904.

349,889	ounces for the Witwatersrand District, value		£1,486,234
12,375	„ „ „ outside Districts,	„	52,566
362,264	„ of fine gold.	Total value	£1,538,800

being an increase of 26,097 ounces in weight, and £110,853 in value as compared with the month of November, 1904.

The production in November, 1904, was:—

324,011	ounces for the Witwatersrand District, value		£1,376,311
12,156	„ „ „ outside Districts,	„	51,636
336,167	„ of fine gold.	Total value	£1,427,947

and in December, 1903:—

278,711	ounces for the Witwatersrand District, value		£1,183,888
7,350	„ „ „ outside Districts,	„	31,223
286,061	„ of fine gold.	Total value	£1,215,111

Enclosure 3 in No. 29.

January 10, 1905.

The total output for the Witwatersrand district was:—
3,658,241 ounces; value, £15,539,219, which includes 4,447 ounces won during 1904, but not previously declared.

The total output for the outside districts was:—
121,380 ounces; value, £515,590, which includes 3,502 ounces won during 1904, but not previously declared.

The total for the Transvaal for 1904 was as follows:—
3,779,621 ounces; value, £16,054,809.

The total output for the Transvaal for the year 1903 was:—
2,963,759.186 ounces; value, £12,589,248.

The increase for the year 1904 being:—
815,862 ounces in weight, and in value £3,465,561.

No. 30.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received 1.18 p.m., January 14, 1905.)

TELEGRAM.

January 14. No. 1. Referring to my telegram of 8th December,* further increase of white workmen in mines of Witwatersrand in month of November is officially returned as 376.

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* No. 20.

No. 31.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received 8.45 p.m., January 20, 1905.)

TELEGRAM.

January 20. No. 2. Total number of persons employed in gold mines of whole Transvaal on 30th November: white, 14,944; coloured, 81,673; Chinese, 17,469.
Total on 31st December: white 15,023; coloured, 83,639; Chinese, 20,885.

No. 32.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received 8.45 p.m., January 20, 1905.)

TELEGRAM.

January 20. No. 3. Referring to my telegram of 14th January, No. 1,* further increase of white workmen in Witwatersrand mines in month of December is officially returned as 113.

No. 33.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received 2.22 p.m., January 23, 1905.)

TELEGRAM.

January 23. No. 2. I do not know whether your attention has been called to statement made at a public dinner a week ago by Mr. J. W. Quinn, who, as you are aware, up to now has consistently and conscientiously opposed Chinese labour. He said, "The Chinese are here, the Ordinance is passed, the people appear to be contented, there is no objection raised, and as far as I am concerned in any politics I may take part in in the future the question is finished." Personally I am convinced that the last word of serious opposition has now been spoken in the Transvaal.

No. 34.

MR. LYTTELTON to GOVERNOR LORD PLUNKET (NEW ZEALAND).

MY LORD, Downing Street, January 26, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 10th of November,† forwarding a resolution passed by the Legislative Council and House of Representatives expressing regret at the introduction of Chinese labour into the Transvaal without the express sanction of the white population by vote having been first obtained or Responsible Government being granted.

2. A similar resolution was passed by the Federal Legislature of the Australian Commonwealth last year, the reply to which is contained in my despatch

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* No. 30. † No. 25.

to the Governor-General of Australia, published at page 3 of the Parliamentary Paper [Cd. 2104], of which a copy is enclosed.

3. His Majesty's Government have never questioned the right of the Legislature of New Zealand to express their views with regard to the subject of the resolution, but they adhere to their opinion that in the exceptional condition of things existing at the time when the Transvaal Labour Importation Ordinance was passed the question of the introduction of Chinese labour was one of such extreme urgency that it was impossible to await the establishment of Responsible Government, and that no referendum could have been taken without the provision of electoral machinery and the definition of electoral qualifications which would have involved long delay.

4. The action taken by His Majesty's Government was that which they believed to be in accordance with the views of the great majority of the white population of the Transvaal, and was in harmony with their policy of treating the Transvaal as a self-governing Colony, so far as its internal affairs are concerned, where no Imperial interest is involved.

I have, &c.,
ALFRED LYTTELTON.

No. 35.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received January 28, 1905.)

SIR, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, January 9, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch, Transvaal, of the 12th December, 1904,* I have the honour to transmit, under separate cover, two copies of the Statistics of the Transvaal Mines Department for the month of November 1904.†

I have, &c.,
MILNER,
Governor.

Enclosures in No. 35.

MINES DEPARTMENT, TRANSVAAL, Statistics for the month of November, 1904.

ABSTRACT.

The following are the principal items to be noted in connection with the statistics for the month :—

LABOUR (Statement No. 6).

Gold Mines.	Whites.	Coloured.	Chinese.
Witwatersrand Area	14,233	75,347	17,469
Other Districts	711	6,326	—
Totals for the Transvaal ...	14,944	81,673	17,469

Percentage of Coloured Persons not at work on the last day of the month ... 7·44
Percentage of Chinese not at work on the last day of the month ... ... 14·56

* No. 26.

† Only the Abstract, the Summary of Gold Production, and the Statement of white and coloured persons in the employ of Companies and Companies' Contractors are reprinted. Progressive totals from October, 1903, will be found in No. 46.

Coal Mines.	Whites.	Coloured.
Totals for the Transvaal	456	9,031

Percentage of Coloured Persons not at work on the last day of the month ... 8·67

Diamond Mines.	Whites.	Coloured.
Totals for the Transvaal	392	2,952

Percentage of Coloured Persons not at work on the last day of the month ... 2·71

GOLD OUTPUT (Statements Nos. 1, 2, and 3).

——	Fine Gold, ozs.	Value, £.
Witwatersrand Area	325,307·582	1,381,823
Other Districts	10,774·441	45,764
Total for the Transvaal ...	336,082·023	1,427,587

COAL OUTPUT (Statement No. 4).

——	Tons.	Value, £.
Total for the Transvaal	205,891	73,237

SILVER OUTPUT.

——	Fine Silver, ozs.	Value, £.
Total for the Transvaal	36,613·999	4,168

DIAMOND OUTPUT (Statement No. 5).

——	Weight, Carats.	Value, £.
Total for the Transvaal	84,718·50	106,362

A.—NUMBER OF PERSONS (WHITE AND COLOURED) IN THE EMPLOY OF COMPANIES AND COMPANIES' CONTRACTORS ON THE 30TH NOVEMBER, 1904.

DISTRICT.	GOLD MINES.									COAL MINES.						DIAMOND MINES.						OTHER MINES (Cobalt, Tin, Lead, Copper, Magnesite).		METALLURGICAL AND CHEMICAL WORKS.		TAILINGS SYNDICATES.		ALLUVIAL WORKINGS, &C.		GRAND TOTALS.		
	PRODUCING.			NON-PRODUCING.			TOTALS.			PRODUCING.		NON-PRODUCING.		TOTALS.		PRODUCING.		NON-PRODUCING.		TOTALS.												
	Whites.	Coloured.	Chinese.	Whites.	Coloured.	Chinese.	Whites.	Coloured.	Chinese.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Chinese.
Witwatersrand Area ..	11,479	66,741	13,611	2,754	8,606	3,858	14,233	75,347	17,469	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	143	6	22	—	—	**14,265**	**75,512**	**17,469**
Heidelberg Magisterial District.	93	1,027	—	65	411	—	158	1,438	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	**158**	**1,438**	—
Pretoria District (Barberton, Lydenburg and Pietersburg).	386	3,847	—	71	529	—	457	4,376	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	386	2,908	6	44	392	2,952	41	523	—	—	1	9	13	35	**904**	**7,895**	—
Potchefstroom Magisterial District (including Klerksdorp).	14	117	—	82	395	—	96	512	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	**96**	**512**	—
Springs-Brakpan Area ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	174	3,405	—	—	174	3,405	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	**174**	**3,405**	—
Middelburg Area	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	199	4,370	3	28	202	4,398	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	**202**	**4,398**	—
Other Districts	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	80	1,228	—	—	80	1,228	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	**80**	**1,228**	—
Grand Totals ..	**11,972**	**71,732**	**13,611**	**2,972**	**9,941**	**3,858**	**14,944**	**81,673**	**17,469**	**453**	**9,003**	**3**	**28**	**456**	**9,031**	**386**	**2,908**	**6**	**44**	**392**	**2,952**	**41**	**523**	**26**	**143**	**7**	**31**	**13**	**35**	**15,879**	**94,388**	**17,469**

No. 36.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received February 11, 1905.)

SIR, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, January 23, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for your information, a copy of a comparative statement for the periods January to December, 1903 and 1904, of mortality of native labourers employed on mines and works in labour districts of the Transvaal.

I have, &c.
MILNER,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 36.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF MORTALITY AMONGST NATIVES EMPLOYED ON MINES AND WORKS IN LABOUR DISTRICTS, JANUARY TO DECEMBER, 1903 AND 1904.

Month.	No. of Natives employed.		No. of Deaths from Disease.		Death Rate per 1,000 per Annum from Disease.		No. of Deaths from Accident.		Death Rate per 1,000 per Annum from Accident.		Total No. of Deaths.		Total Death Rate per 1,000 per Annum.	
	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.
January	49,761	79,161	240	370	57·88	56·09	13	19	3·13	2·88	253	389	61·01	58·96
February	55,288	80,365	197	223	42·76	33·30	10	22	2·17	3·29	207	245	44·93	36·58
March	57,022	83,904	217	225	45·67	31·89	18	31	3·79	4·43	235	254	49·45	36·33
April	62,265	85,400	257	168	49·53	23·61	12	59	2·31	8·29	269	227	51·84	31·90
May	65,371	85,994	409	289	75·08	40·33	22	24	4·04	3·35	431	313	79·12	43·68
June	68,819	83,536	476	231	83·00	33·18	16	25	2·79	3·59	492	256	85·79	36·77
July	66,961	74,479	615	202	110·21	32·55	13	36	2·33	5·80	628	238	112·54	38·35
August	74,324	78,514	468	226	75·56	34·54	18	20	2·91	3·06	486	246	78·47	37·60
September	73,967	79,416	393	242	63·76	36·57	35	27	5·68	4·08	428	269	69·44	40·65
October	76,141	83,606	394	336	62·10	48·23	23	21	3·62	3·01	417	357	65·72	51·24
November	75,256	86,812	480	378	76·54	52·25	18	31	2·87	4·29	498	409	79·41	56·54
December	75,111	89,894	471	372	75·05	49·66	19	30	3·04	4·08	490	402	78·28	53·66
Average	66,690	82,590	385	272	69·28	39·52	18	28	3·24	4·07	403	300	72·51	43·59

From July inclusive for the year 1904 the death rate has been worked out on the average number of Natives employed for each month, and not as hitherto on the full total.

From August inclusive for 1904 all Natives employed by Contractors on Mines and Works are included in the Return.

S. M. PRITCHARD,
Pass Commissioner,
Native Affairs Department.

Johannesburg,
17th January, 1905.

No. 37.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received February 11, 1905.)

SIR, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, January 23, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 8th December,* and to forward to you a copy of a memorandum and charts, prepared in the Department of Native Affairs, which will, I think, afford a satisfactory explanation of the variations in the supply of native labour to which you call attention.

So far as I can see, the recruiting of kaffirs for the mines remains practically unaffected by the importation of Chinese labour. If there were any prospect of this labour market being ever closed to them, no doubt a certain effect would be produced and recruiting would be stimulated. As it is, the enormously greater cost of producing the Chinaman on the Rand makes it certain that the Native Labour Association will never be able to afford to relax their efforts. The kaffir will, therefore, still be able to remain in his kraal, until he is forced by hunger to work, and be certain of employment at any time; and the supply of labour will continue to vary, as it has always done, according to the seasons.

I have, &c.,
MILNER,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 37.

ACTING COMMISSIONER FOR NATIVE AFFAIRS to PRIVATE SECRETARY TO GOVERNOR.

THE PRIVATE SECRETARY TO
HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, January 9, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, enclosing a copy of the Secretary of State's despatch to His Excellency the Governor, dated the 8th December, relative to the fluctuation in the native labour supply on the mines.

For purposes of comparison, I enclose a statement, marked "A," compiled from the records of this Department, showing the number of natives respectively employed on the mines and other service for the period 1st September, 1903, to 30th November, 1904, together with the following charts in illustration of the actual fluctuation in the two classes of labour, viz.:—

Influx and exodus on mines and other employ—(Enclosure "B").

Comparative variation of influx and exodus on mines and other employ—(Enclosure "C").

These documents will show that the supply is subject to considerable variation, not only on the mines but in other employ. Such variations may be largely explained by the following reasons:—

(1) That the natives avoid, as much as possible, coming up to the cold altitude of Johannesburg during the severe winter months, *i.e.*, May, June, and July.

(2) That they endeavour to be at their homes during the planting season in spring to sow their crops—either in August or September, according to the latitude of their abode.

(3) That they desire to return home in April and May to participate in the feasts of the new harvest, which is generally reaped at that period of the year.

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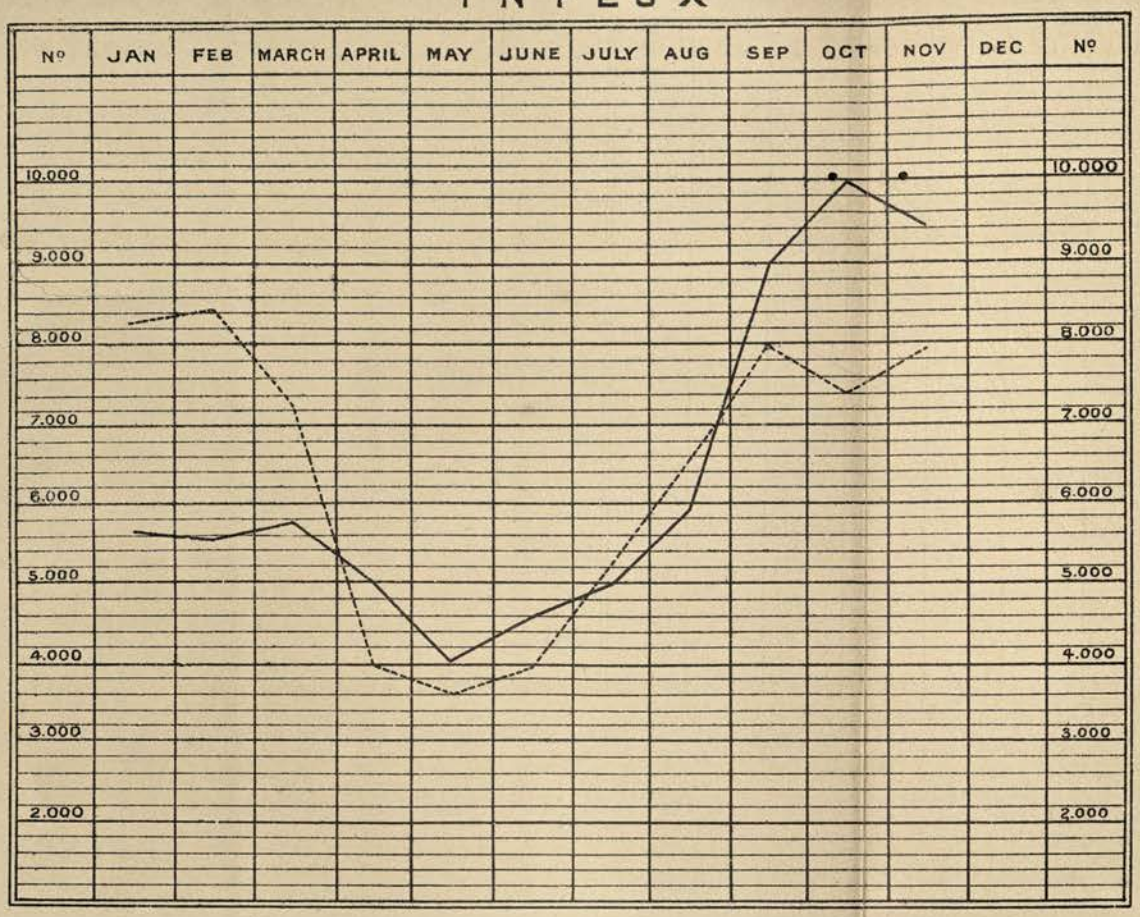
* No. 21.

"B"

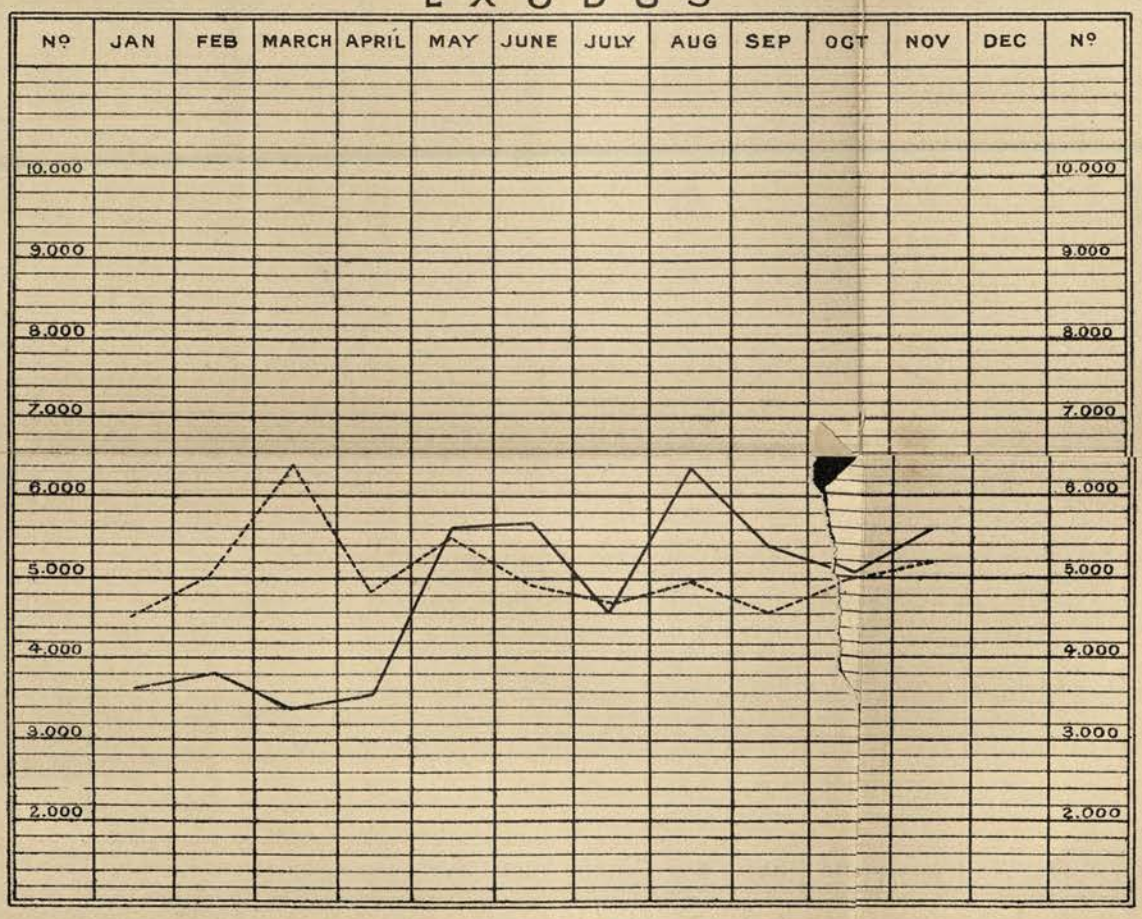
CHART, SHOWING INFLUX & EXODUS OF NATIVES.
IN PROCLAIMED LABOUR DISTRICTS DURING 1904.

MINES & WORKS *Shown*
PRIVATE EMPLOY

INFLUX



EXODUS



NATIVE AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

TRANSVAAL 10 JANUARY 1905.

5501.3.05.

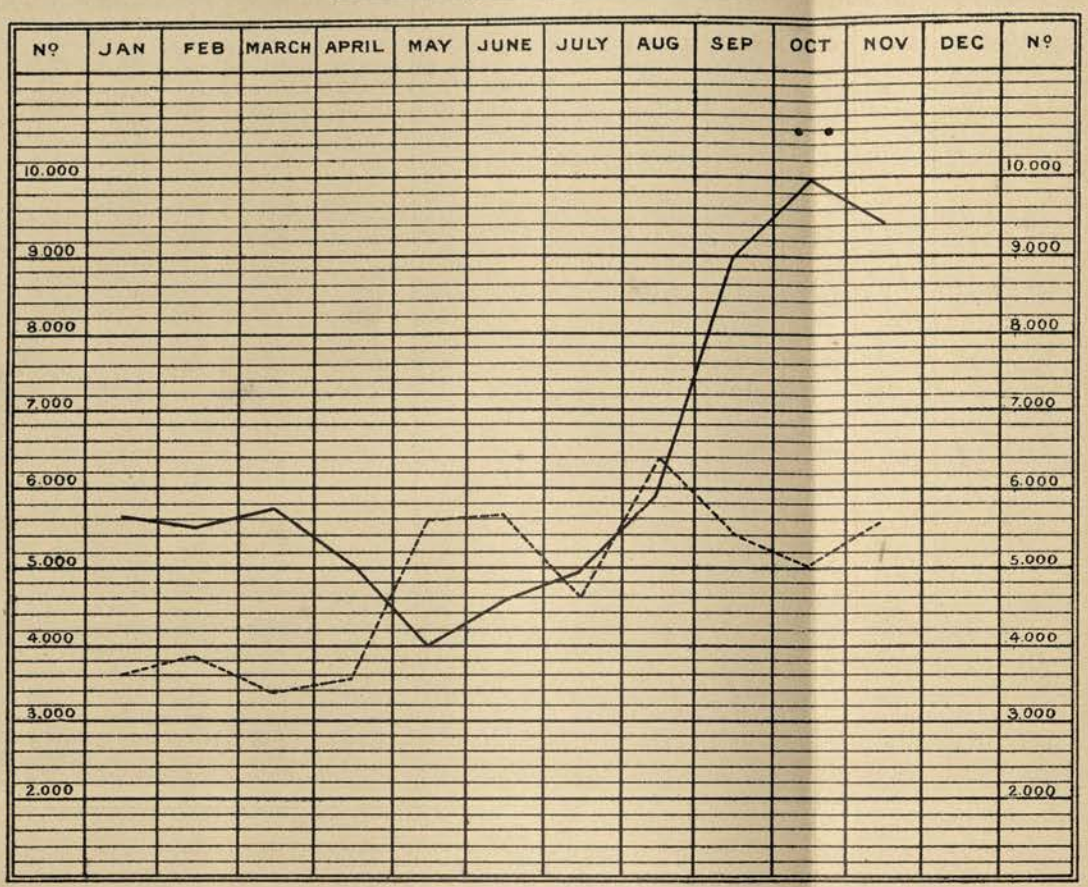
Weller & Graham, Ltd Litho. London

"C"

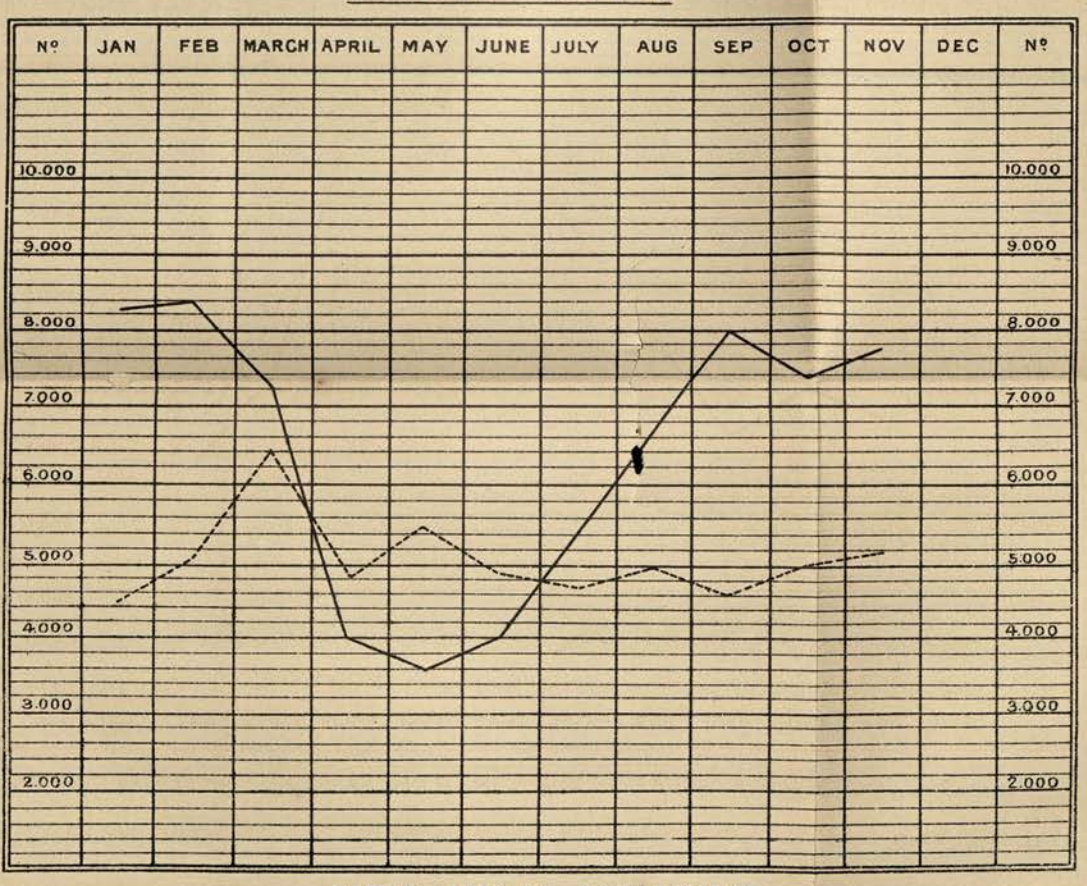
CHART SHOWING COMPARATIVE VARIATION OF INFLUX & EXODUS OF NATIVES IN PROCLAIMED LABOUR DISTRICTS 1904

INFLUX ^^^ EXODUS ~~~

1. MINES AND WORKS



2. OTHER EMPLOY



NATIVE AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

TRANSVAAL 10 JANUARY 1905.

5501.3.05.

Weller & Graham, Ltd Litho, London.

(4) That in years of plenty they have no inclination to leave their kraals.

(5) That when the food supply is scarce they seek work in the largest numbers.

A reference to the charts will clearly bear out the explanations (1), (2), and (3). Chart "B" shows that in January, February, March, and April the influx was fairly sustained; that in May, June, and July it was at its lowest ebb; and that in August, September, October, and November a considerable rise occurred. The exodus, on the other hand, from mines chiefly took place during May, June, July, and August, and from private employ in March, April, and May.

Chart "C" points to the fact that as the influx increases the exodus decreases and *vice versâ*. On the mines, for instance, it will be observed that in January, February, and March, when the influx was between five and six thousand, the exodus was between three and four thousand; that in April, May, June, and July, when the exodus rose from four to six thousand, the influx fell between three and five thousand; and that in August, September, October, and November, when the influx increased from six to ten thousand, the exodus was between five and six thousand.

It appears from Statement "A" that whilst the number of natives in other employ increased by 1,812 and decreased on the mines by 5,173 between the 1st July and 31st August, they decreased by 7,359 in other employ and increased by 4,147 on the mines during the period 1st March to 31st May.

It may be noted that the proportion of labourers on mines as compared with those in other employ in September, 1903, was 55.96 and 44.04 per cent., and that the relative percentage in November, 1904, was almost exactly the same, viz., 55.90 and 44.10. The general supply is now rising steadily in a slightly higher ratio on the mines than in other employ.

Attention was invited to the variation in the labour supply this year in the annual Blue Book of this Department for the period 1st July, 1903, to 30th June, 1904—pages A. 4-5 and B. 55.

W. WINDHAM,
Acting Commissioner for Native Affairs.

A.

RETURN SHEWING INCREASE AND DECREASE IN THE LABOUR SUPPLY ON MINES AND WORKS AND IN PRIVATE EMPLOY IN PROCLAIMED LABOUR DISTRICTS—SEPTEMBER 1903, TO NOVEMBER, 1904.

Month.	No. on Mines.	No. in Private Employ.	Total.	Increase.		Total.	Decrease.		Total.	Remarks.
				Mines.	Private.		Mines.	Private.		
1903.										
September (percentage).	55·96	44·04								
September...	69,462	54,669	124,131							
October ...	70,633	55,639	126,272	1,171	970	2,141				
November...	70,831	57,350	128,181	198	1,711	1,909				
December...	70,296	58,879	129,175	—	1,529	1,529	535	—	535	
1904.										
*January ...	74,594	62,035	136,629	4,298	3,156	7,454	—	—	—	* Middelburg included. M. & W., 3,684; Other 60.
February ...	75,807	63,949	139,756	1,213	1,914	3,127				
March ...	79,836	62,290	142,126	4,029	—	4,029	—	1,659	1,659	Pretoria included. M. & W., 2,436; Other 161.

Month.	No. on Mines.	No. in Private Employ.	Total.	Increase.		Total.	Decrease.		Total.	Remarks.
				Mines.	Private.		Mines.	Private.		
April ...	81,613	59,753	141,366	1,777	—	1,777	—	2,537	2,537	
May ...	79,954	56,590	136,544	—	—	—	1,659	3,163	4,822	
June ...	77,567	55,716	133,283	—	—	—	2,387	874	3,261	
July ...	74,285	55,973	130,258	—	257	257	3,282	—	3,282	
August ...	72,394	57,528	129,922	—	1,555	1,555	1,891	—	1,891	
September...	75,172	60,782	135,954	2,778	3,254	6,032				
October ...	79,233	62,728	141,961	4,061	1,946	6,007				
November...	82,111	64,790	146,901	2,878	2,062	4,940				
November (percentage).	55·90	44·10								

No. 38.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received February 11, 1905.)

SIR, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, January 23, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you a copy of a memorandum which I have just received from the Superintendent of Foreign Labour.

I have, &c.,
MILNER,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 38.

MEMORANDUM.

The number of Chinese labourers in the country, on the water, and arranged for, though not yet embarked, is about 36,000; permission having been given for about 34,000. It is anticipated that by the end of June 50,000 will have arrived.

The Chamber of Mines will not apply for permission to introduce more Chinese than are necessary to fill the shortage in the labour supply, as the expenses in connection with the introduction are very heavy.

The experience gained from the large numbers now in the country confirms the opinion I have always expressed, viz., the larger the number in the country the less the likelihood of disturbances breaking out over trivial matters. With a large number in the country, the new comers on arrival find themselves amongst their compatriots and friends. They at once enquire from them and are assured that the place is all right. And then when the cooking goes wrong, or bread runs short, instead of at once rioting, as they did in the early days, they consult the earlier arrivals and understand that it is only an accident. There has been no disturbance of this sort since 19th November, 1904, on the New Kleinfontein Mine, and this occurred within ten days of the labourers' arrival on the mine.

Fights between Chinese and Kaffirs are no more probable than faction fights amongst the Kaffirs of different compounds, perhaps less so, as the Chinese are a peaceful race.

In my opinion, there is no reason to impose any limitation on the monthly shipments or on the total, as the number will be limited by the demand. These Chinese labourers are no danger to the peace or welfare of the Transvaal.

W. EVANS,
Superintendent.

Foreign Labour Department,
Johannesburg,
21st January, 1905.

No. 39.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received February 18, 1905.)

SIR, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, January 30, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 12th December,* I have the honour to enclose, for your information, a copy of a statement of mortality amongst Chinese labourers on the Rand, for the month of December, 1904.

I have, &c.,
MILNER,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 39.

THE CHAMBER OF MINES LABOUR IMPORTATION AGENCY, LIMITED.

RETURN of Mortality amongst Chinese Labourers during the month of December, 1904.

Beri Beri	16
Accident	8
Dysentery	7
Heart Disease	5
Enteric	5
Enteritis	1
Pneumonia	1
Peritonitis	1
Suicide	1
Killed in riot	1
Debility	1
Acute Hepatitis	1
Gastritis	1
	49

Total in employ of members on 31st December, 1904—20,918.

49 = 0.23 per cent. of total employed.

Johannesburg,
January 6, 1905.

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* No. 27.

No. 40.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received February 18, 1905.)

SIR, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, January 30, 1905.

I HAVE from time to time furnished you with official returns to show the increasing number of white men who have obtained employment in the gold mines of the Witwatersrand, as a consequence of the importation of unskilled Chinese labour.

I now have the honour to enclose, for your information, certain figures, which have been sent to me from the Transvaal and Orange River Colony Agency at Cape Town, and which throw a certain light on the general increase of white population which has resulted.

The figures of permits issued for the Transvaal do not, of course, afford anything like complete statistics of immigration, since a large number of the families which left South Africa during the acutest period of depression are exempt from the necessity of obtaining fresh permits. Still, the returns which I annex, and which are confined solely to immigrants of the artisan and mechanic class, do show unmistakably that the influx of these people, which had long been steadily decreasing, reached its lowest point in the month before the arrival of the Chinese, and has showed a rapid increase ever since. The total figures of immigration, if they were available, would certainly show a very much more striking result.

The market for this class of workmen is not yet sufficiently assured to warrant any encouragement of immigration from home. But I am assured that a few months will suffice to absorb all those who are already in the country.

I have, &c.,
MILNER,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 40.

TRANSVAAL AND ORANGE RIVER COLONY AGENCY, CAPE TOWN.

STATEMENT showing the number of Artisans and Mechanics, British and Foreign, who have received permits to enter the Transvaal during the period 1st January to 30th November, 1904.

Trades.	January.		February.		March.		April.		May.		June.		July.		August.		September.		October.		November.	
	B.	F.	B.	F.	B.	F.	B.	F.	B.	F.	B.	F.	B.	F.	B.	F.	B.	F.	B.	F.	B.	F.
Carpenters	29	25	14	15	16	15	13	25	15	11	16	8	19	8	33	10	26	9	32	19	34	11
Miners	19	4	37	4	30	—	20	2	18	—	23	2	41	4	48	2	41	—	71	6	39	8
Blacksmiths ...	7	1	1	1	2	5	1	2	4	—	3	2	4	1	6	3	8	1	9	4	6	4
Masons	1	14	—	9	2	22	5	7	2	—	4	9	2	7	6	9	5	4	4	2	2	6
Bricklayers ...	6	16	1	9	2	7	16	14	3	—	6	3	15	1	4	3	3	7	13	—	8	10
Fitters and Moulders	6	4	6	3	10	—	3	—	5	1	11	1	5	—	13	2	4	—	11	1	15	2
Plumbers and Tinsmiths.	12	7	8	2	4	1	2	1	1	—	—	2	2	3	2	4	2	1	3	2	2	2
Engineers, Firemen and Stokers.	23	2	19	2	31	4	10	6	21	5	15	5	15	4	29	6	25	4	31	10	28	8
Painters	10	8	9	8	6	5	3	5	5	3	3	5	—	4	5	4	2	4	6	6	9	1
Boilermakers ...	2	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	2	—
Riggers and Labourers.	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Plasterers	1	5	1	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	3	3	2	—	1	—	1	—
Mine Employees ...	4	7	1	4	3	3	5	—	4	—	1	1	6	—	3	—	2	—	6	5	13	2
Riveters	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Platelayers... ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Builders and Contractors.	6	—	2	1	3	1	3	—	1	—	4	—	4	—	6	1	6	1	6	3	2	—
	126	94	101	60	111	63	85	62	84	20	88	39	117	32	159	47	129	31	194	58	163	54

Total British 1,357

Total Foreign 560

No. 41.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received February 18, 1905.)

SIR, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, January 30, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to refer to my despatch of the 23rd January,* and to place before you further considerations with regard to the relative cost of native and Chinese labour for the Transvaal mines. I have explained to you the difficulties of instituting as yet any reasonable comparison between the wages paid to Kaffirs and those paid to the imported coolies, though I hope that such a comparison may very soon be possible. On the other hand there is no difficulty whatever in comparing the expenditure necessary to secure the two different kinds of labour.

Nearly all the mines on the Rand recruit their Kaffir labourers through the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, which charges a recruiting fee on the following scale:—

Boys on 12 months' contracts	£5 0 0
Boys on 6 months' contracts	2 10 0
Boys on 4 months' contracts	2 0 0
Boys locally engaged	1 5 0

It is estimated that the average preliminary cost of obtaining Kaffirs amounts in a period of three years, the term of the Chinese contracts, to £10 15s. a head.

The recruiting of Chinese coolies is conducted, as you are aware, by a similar body, the Labour Importation Agency, and I have obtained from that source the following approximate analysis of the non-recoverable expenses incurred for the importation of a single coolie:—

Recruiting fee	£1 17 6
Coolie freight from China	5 0 0
Coolie freight back to China	4 0 0
Chinese Government capitation fee, $3 at 1s. 9d.	5 3
Transvaal Emigration Agent's fee, $1 at 1s. 9d.	1 9
Subsistence in depôt in China	5 0
Medical fee in China	1 0
Disinfecting fee in China	1 0
Proportion of shipping licence	6
Proportion of Recruiter's fee	3
Insurance	2 6
Railway charges to Rand, South Africa	1 0 6
Railway charges, return journey to Durban	1 0 6
Depôt expenses, Durban, on arrival	19 6
Depôt expenses, Durban, on departure	10 0
Proportion administration expenses	1 0 0
Proportion amortization, approximation only	6 0
	£16 11 3

It is clear, therefore, that, so far as the cost of recruiting is concerned, the balance of advantage is entirely with the Kaffir. And even when the Chinaman has arrived on the Rand, he is not cheaper to maintain, but dearer. It is found that whereas the latter costs on an average 5¾d. to feed per day, the expense of feeding a Chinaman averages 11d., or very nearly double. Nor is there any intention, or indeed any possibility, of recouping this extra expense by paying the Chinaman for his work at a lower rate than the Kaffir.

There is, in fact, no question whatever, from the mine-owners' point of view, of the relative merits of Chinese and Kaffir labour, if both were available in sufficient

* No. 38.

quantities. In face of the persistent assertion that the object of introducing Chinese labour was cheapness, the mine-owners have constantly maintained that Chinese labour would not prove cheaper than native. The truth of that assertion is now proved beyond the shadow of a doubt. And that fact alone disposes of the absurd contention that they could get plenty of native labour if they would. Nobody can rate the commercial intelligence of the mine-owners so low as to suppose they would incur this enormous trouble and expense if an adequate supply of Kaffir labour were ready to their hand.

It is absolutely certain that the mines will continue to employ as many Kaffirs as they can get. If, at the same time, they draw largely upon China, it will be merely to make up, so far as they can, the deficiency between the number of Kaffirs who can be got and the total number of unskilled labourers which the mines may at any given time require.

The great advantage which the opening of the Chinese labour market has brought to the mines, and to the whole country is the fact that the assurance of a sufficient and certain supply of labour will enable the mining industry to adopt a definite policy of progression. Money will never be forthcoming to develop the untouched riches of South Africa, if the future labour supply is to be limited in extent or uncertain in its continuance. It is almost a common-place, to one who knows the economic conditions of South Africa, to repeat that, while the prosperity of the whole country cannot permanently depend upon its mines, yet it is upon their well-being that it will be founded. Fortunately there is now little doubt that China can supply an amount of unskilled labour which will enable the mining industry to be steadily developed. There have, as you are aware, been hitches and difficulties, inevitable to the conduct of so novel an experiment. But, on the whole, the process of recruiting and shipping has been carried out with remarkable success. The number of Chinamen actually shipped during seven months amounts to 33,980. There are at the present time firm applications on the books of the Labour Importation Agency for a total of 54,862 (inclusive of those already introduced), and no doubt is entertained by its officials of their ability to supply the balance.

I have, &c.,
MILNER,
Governor.

No. 42.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received February 18, 1905.)

[*Answered by No.* 45.]

SIR, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, January 30, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for your information, returns of convictions and sentences on Chinese labourers for the months of July, August, September, October, November, and December, 1904.

Similar returns will, in future, be transmitted to you monthly.

I have, &c.,
MILNER,
Governor.

Enclosure 1 in No. 42.

CONVICTIONS AND SENTENCES ON CHINESE LABOURERS. JULY, 1904.

Crime.	Nos.	Sentences.	Remarks.
Desertion	22	30s. fine or seven days.	
Theft	1	Sentenced to one month.	
Assault	5	From two to five months.	
Refusing to work	2	Fined £2 or one month. Fined £5 or two months.	

Enclosure 2 in No. 42.

CONVICTIONS AND SENTENCES ON CHINESE LABOURERS. AUGUST, 1904.

Crime.	Nos.	Sentences.	Remarks.
Desertion	—	—	
Theft	5	Three weeks' hard labour.	
Assault	1	One month's imprisonment.	
Refusing to work	45	£2 or two weeks (1). £3 or one month (1). 10s. or seven days (43).	
Travelling without permit ...	19	Fine 10s. (1). Cautioned and discharged (18).	

Enclosure 3 in No. 42.

CONVICTIONS AND SENTENCES ON CHINESE LABOURERS. SEPTEMBER., 1904.

Crime.	Nos.	Sentences.	Remarks.
Desertion	20	From £3 or one month to £5 or two months.	
Theft	—	—	
Assault	3	(1) Six months' hard labour. (2) Two months' imprisonment. (3) Seven days' imprisonment.	
Refusing to work	14	From £4 or one month to £10 or two months.	
Indecent assault	—	—	
Travelling without permit ...	41	Fined £1 or seven days' hard labour.	

Enclosure 4 in No. 42.

CONVICTIONS AND SENTENCES ON CHINESE LABOURERS. OCTOBER, 1904.

Crime.	Nos.	Sentences.	Remarks.
Desertion	50	From seven days' hard labour to two months or £5.	
Theft	—	—	
Assault	4	Three to six months.	
Refusing to work	7	£3 or one month.	
Indecent assault ...	—	—	
Travelling without permit ...	—	—	
Riot	96	From one month or £3 to six months and 20 lashes.	69 of these participated in a general riot on Geduld Mine. 20 were headsmen on the Randfontein Estates Mine and have since been disrated.

Enclosure 5 in No. 42.

CONVICTIONS AND SENTENCES ON CHINESE LABOURERS. NOVEMBER, 1904.

Crime.	Nos.	Sentences.	Remarks.
Desertion	18	From £1 or seven days to £5 or one month.	164 of these deserted from the Simmer and Jack Proprietary Mines, Limited, after arrival. They did not know the Mine boundary limits.
Theft	2	(1) Seven days' imprisonment. (2) Six months' hard labour.	
Assault	4	From one month to six weeks' hard labour.	
Refusing to work	20	From £1 or seven days to £3 or three weeks.	
Indecent assault	1	Seven months' imprisonment.	
Travelling without permit ...	—	—	
Riot	18	From two to three months' hard labour.	

Enclosure 6 in No. 42.

CONVICTIONS AND SENTENCES ON CHINESE LABOURERS. DECEMBER, 1904.

Crime.	Nos.	Sentences.	Remarks.
Desertion	47	From seven days to six weeks. From 10s. fine to £1 fine.	
Theft	3	From two months' hard labour to three months' hard labour.	
Assault	—	—	
Refusing to work	4	From £3 or one month to £4 or six weeks.	
Indecent assault	—	—	
Travelling without permit ...	—	—	
Riot	26	Three weeks' hard labour ...	Secret society disturbance.

No. 43.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received 4.55 p.m., February 23, 1905.)

TELEGRAM.

February 23. No. 5. Referring to my telegram of 20th January, No. 3,* further increase of white workmen in Witwatersrand mines in month of January is officially returned as 527.

No. 44.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received 4.55 p.m., February 24, 1905.)

TELEGRAM.

February 24. No. 1. Referring to my telegram of 20th January, No. 2,† total number of persons employed in gold mines of whole Transvaal on 31st January—white, 15,536; coloured, 89,895; Chinese, 27,222.

No. 45.

MR. LYTTELTON to GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER.

(Sent 6.47 p.m., February 24, 1905.)

TELEGRAM.

[*Answered by No.* 53.]

February 24. No. 2. Referring to your despatch of 30th January,‡ please let me have supplementary return showing, where option of fine was given, whether fines were paid or other punishment suffered.

No. 46.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received February 25, 1905.)

SIR, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, January 31, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 9th January, 1905,§ I have the honour to transmit two copies of the statistics of the Transvaal Mines Department for the month of December, 1904.

I have, &c.,
MILNER,
Governor.

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* No. 32. † No. 31. ‡ No. 42. § No. 35.

Enclosure in No. 46.

Transvaal Mines Department.

Statistics for the Month of December, 1904.

Abstract.

The following are the principal items to be noted in connection with the Statistics for the month :—

Labour (Statement No. 6).

Gold Mines.	Whites.	Coloured.	Chinese.
Witwatersrand Area	14,346	77,218	20,885
Other Districts	677	6,421	—
Totals for the Transvaal ...	15,023	83,639	20,885

Percentage of Coloured Persons not at work on the last day of the month ... 8·29
Percentage of Chinese not at work on the last day of the month ... ... 9·83

Coal Mines.	Whites.	Coloured.
Totals for the Transvaal	459	9,410

Percentage of Coloured Persons not at work on the last day of the month ... 9·80

Diamond Mines.	Whites.	Coloured.
Totals for the Transvaal	406	3,575

Percentage of Coloured Persons not at work on the last day of the month ... 5·96

Gold Output (Statements Nos. 1, 2 and 3).

——	Fine Gold, ozs.	Value, £.
Witwatersrand Area	351,263·298	1,492,067
Other Districts	10,901·193	46,310
Total for the Transvaal ...	362,164·491	1,538,377

Coal Output (Statement No. 4).

——	Tons.	Value, £.
Total for the Transvaal	210,814	75,377

Silver Output.

——	Fine Silver, ozs.	Value, £.
Total for the Transvaal	39,104·875	4,306

DIAMOND OUTPUT (Statement No. 5).

——	Weight, Carats.	Value, £.
Total for the Transvaal	77,852·50	97,733

PROGRESSIVE TOTALS.—GOLD OUTPUT.

MONTH.	Fine Gold, ozs.	Value, £.
Statistical Year, 1901–1902	891,999·196	3,788,968
Statistical Year, 1902–1903	2,372,075·928	10,075,926
Statistical Year, 1903–1904	3,475,311·225	14,762,184
1903.—October	285,549·573	1,212,935
November	280,802·806	1,192,778
December	287,810·598	1,222,545
1904.—January	289,899·632	1,231,418
February	290,727·924	1,234,927
March	308,533·316	1,310,567
April	307,323·952	1,305,431
May	315,071·319	1,338,339
June	308,344·854	1,309,766
July	306,016·049	1,299,881
August	312,723·245	1,328,366
September	312,940·790	1,329,280
October	323,689·537	1,374,944
November	336,082·023	1,427,587
December	362,164·491	1,538,377

A.—NUMBER, OF PERSONS (WHITE AND COLOURED) IN THE EMPLOY OF COMPANIES AND COMPANIES' CONTRACTORS ON THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1904.

DISTRICT.	GOLD MINES.									COAL MINES.						DIAMOND MINES.						OTHER MINES (Cobalt, Tin, Lead, Copper, Magnesite).		METALLURGICAL AND CHEMICAL WORKS.		TAILINGS SYNDICATES.		ALLUVIAL WORKINGS, &C.		GRAND TOTALS.		
	PRODUCING.			NON-PRODUCING.			TOTALS.			PRODUCING.		NON-PRODUCING.		TOTALS.		PRODUCING.		NON-PRODUCING.		TOTALS.												
	Whites.	Coloured.	Chinese.	Whites.	Coloured.	Chinese.	Whites.	Coloured.	Chinese.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Chinese.
Witwatersrand Area ..	12,124	68,999	19,542	2,222	8,219	1,343	14,346	77,218	20,885	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	27	196	3	26	—	—	**14,376**	**77,440**	**20,885**
Heidelberg Magisterial .. District.	90	1,135	—	56	369	—	146	1,504	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	**146**	**1,504**	—
Pretoria District (Barberton, Lydenburg and Pietersburg).	361	3,861	—	73	576	—	434	4,437	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	402	3,542	4	33	406	3,575	42	401	—	—	1	9	1	2	**884**	**8,424**	—
Potchefstroom Magisterial District (including Klerksdorp).	12	93	—	85	387	—	97	480	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		**97**	**480**	—
Springs-Brakpan Area ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	173	3,481	—	—	173	3,481	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	**173**	**3,481**	—
Middelburg Area	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	195	4,584	6	28	201	4,612	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	**201**	**4,612**	—
Other Districts	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	85	1,317	—	—	85	1,317	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	**85**	**1,317**	—
Grand Totals ..	**12,587**	**74,088**	**19,542**	**2,436**	**9,551**	**1,343**	**15,023**	**83,639**	**20,885**	**453**	**9,382**	**6**	**28**	**459**	**9,410**	**402**	**3,542**	**4**	**33**	**406**	**3,575**	**42**	**401**	**27**	**196**	**4**	**35**	**1**	**2**	**15,962**	**97,258**	**20,885**

LABOUR,

WITH PROGRESSIVE TOTALS FROM OCTOBER, 1903.

Statement No. 6, December, 1904.

B.—PROGRESSIVE TOTALS OF PERSONS (WHITE AND COLOURED) IN THE EMPLOY OF COMPANIES AND COMPANIES' CONTRACTORS ON THE LAST DAY OF EACH MONTH SINCE OCTOBER, 1903.

MONTH.	GOLD MINES.			COAL MINES.		DIAMOND MINES.		OTHER MINES.		METALLURGICAL AND CHEMICAL WORKS.		TAILINGS SYNDICATES.		ALLUVIAL WORKINGS, &C.		GRAND TOTALS.		
	Whites.	Coloured.	Chinese.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Chinese
1903—October	12,456	71,659	—	481	9,307	165	1,623	—	—	94	275	9	113	1	7	13,206	82,984	—
November	12,744	72,748	—	469	8,767	162	1,366	—	—	74	241	9	99	1	6	13,459	83,227	—
December	12,702	73,622	—	466	8,623	157	1,318	—	—	55	232	7	81	5	9	13,392	83,885	—
1904—January	12,814	75,027	—	464	8,618	173	1,566	39	282	59	214	7	95	7	42	13,563	85,794	—
February	12,801	77,899	—	485	8,550	175	1,960	36	209	52	220	11	114	6	39	13,566	88,991	—
March	12,681	79,569	—	481	8,758	177	2,233	29	209	27	149	10	117	7	50	13,412	91,085	—
April	12,740	78,825	—	470	8,888	202	2,376	30	314	22	124	10	72	9	46	13,483	90,605	—
May	13,127	77,519	—	483	8,823	244	2,548	29	259	23	124	8	66	7	37	13,921	89,376	—
June	13,413	74,632	1,004	485	8,858	251	2,289	26	246	23	126	6	32	5	31	14,209	86,214	1,004
July	13,707	73,370	1,388	485	8,785	309	2,298	27	337	23	126	2	5	10	49	14,563	84,970	1,388
August	14,333	73,148	4,945	471	8,454	307	2,474	28	363	21	107	5	20	7	27	15,172	84,593	4,945
September	14,423	75,411	9,020	480	8,634	329	2,722	44	503	20	104	4	27	7	32	15,307	87,433	9,020
October	14,525	78,491	12,965	468	9,053	351	3,082	40	468	19	107	5	22	25	57	15,433	91,280	12,965
November	14,944	81,673	17,469	456	9,031	392	2,952	41	523	26	143	7	31	13	35	15,879	94,388	17,469
December	15,023	*83,639	20,885	459	9,410	406	3 575	42	401	27	196	4	35	1	2	15,962	*97,258	20,885

* These figures do not include 745 coloured convicts

No. 47.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received March 4, 1905.)

SIR, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, February 13, 1905.

REFERRING to your Despatch, dated the 24th December, 1904,* I have the honour to state that the figures in the table accompanying your despatch, being an extract from the "Westminster Gazette," are correct except for a few trifling errors which are unimportant in themselves.

2. In explanation of these figures I would in the first place point out that the particular ratios of white and coloured employees which since the war have obtained on the mines are the result of the mines having been forced to carry on work in spite of an inadequate supply of native labour.

3. Towards the close of the war, the larger mining companies were in the position of having either to allow their mines to lie idle and thus incur the great direct and indirect losses which the closing down of a large mine necessarily involves or they had to re-commence work under the unfavourable conditions which then prevailed, not the least of which was the, comparatively speaking, complete lack of native labour.

4. The latter course was adopted by all the mining companies at the earliest available opportunity and the deficiency of unskilled labour was met, as far as possible by the introduction of mechanical appliances.

5. At the same time, a genuine effort was made by the mining companies to induce the unemployed white population to accept service as unskilled labourers on the mines at a wage averaging roughly 10s. per diem.

6. For a time a large number of Europeans—chiefly ex-irregulars—worked on these terms.

However, the employment of white persons on unskilled work at the low wage mentioned did not, on the whole, prove satisfactory, as it was found that the greater number of these employees left the mines after working for only a short period in order to take employment of a more congenial and usually of a more lucrative nature elsewhere.

7. This failure of the white labour experiment for unskilled work and the gradual increase of the number of coloured labourers coming to these fields during the period which followed the war brought about the alteration in the ratios of white to coloured employees which is cited by Mr. Cresswell.

8. The ratio of one white to 8.5 coloured workmen which existed on the mines prior to the war is now being gradually attained to and it is probable that it will be eventually exceeded.

Coloured labour on the Witwatersrand has not at any time been plentiful and it cannot be said that in the year 1899 the labour conditions were by any means ideal.

If a sufficiency of skilled white labour and of cheap unskilled labour on these fields were at any time obtained, the proportion of white to coloured labour on the mines would be materially altered and it is probable that this proportion would be a ratio of 1 to 14.

9. But this increasing ratio of coloured to white employees must not be taken to mean that the latter are being ousted by the former, that is to say, that the work hitherto carried out by the white man is being performed by the coloured man.

10. The nature of the work that has to be done on the mines requires a certain proportion of both skilled and unskilled labourers and the safe and efficient working of a mine as well as economic reasons do not permit of this proportion varying in excess of certain fixed limits.

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* No. 24.

11. It will be readily understood that for economic reasons it is not advisable to employ Europeans at high wages to perform ordinary manual labour if abundant cheap coloured labour is procurable, indeed our reefs, which are of low grade, could not be profitably worked under such conditions.

12. At the same time it would not be advisable, also for economic reasons, to employ unskilled or ignorant persons to supervise and take charge of explosives, complicated machinery, delicate metallurgical processes, &c., where large sums of money might be lost through the ignorance or carelessness of indifferent workmen.

13. At present machine drills are being largely made use of to the detriment of the economical working of the mines and at a certain risk to the safety of those employed in the working places.

14. It has been estimated by the Government Mining Engineer that out of the 71 producing mines at work on the Witwatersrand there are, for economic reasons, only 15 that can advantageously employ machine drills for the breaking of ore in the majority of their working places. It is only where the reef is of exceptional width that the use of machine drills for breaking ore is desirable, since it is found that in mines where the reefs are narrow the powerful explosions which are caused by the blasting of the machine-drilled holes not only dislodge the reef, but also shatter the surrounding waste rock (which contains no gold) into small fragments that intermingle with the ore and proportionately reduce its value.

15. Owing to the shattering effect of the large quantity of explosives used in machine-drilled holes, it is found that in mines where the roof is not of a very solid nature the same is liable to break away, killing and injuring the workmen in the vicinity.

16. Latterly, the number of machine drills employed on the Witwatersrand has not increased proportionately to the increase of the tonnage of ore mined and crushed. On the contrary, owing to the disadvantages I have enumerated, an actual decrease occurred last month in the number of machine drills at work.

17. In proportion to the rate at which a sufficiency of coloured labour is obtainable the use of the machine drill is abandoned and drilling by hand substituted.

18. It must not, however, be thought that such an alteration, whilst increasing the number of coloured employees, in any way involves the dismissal of the white machine-drill men for the latter continue to be required to supervise the additional coloured hand-drillers and also to carry out blasting operations, which by law can only be performed by white responsible persons.

19. I would bring to your attention the different ratios of white to coloured labourers which prevail respectively on producing and non-producing mines. For the month of December, 1904, the proportion on 66 of the former was 1 white to 7.3 coloured or Chinese, and on 47 of the latter the ratio was 1 white to 4.3 coloured or Chinese, giving a mean over the 113 mines taken together of 1 white to every 6.8 coloured or Chinese. All these mines referred to are situated in the Witwatersrand area.

From this it is apparent that the ratio of white to coloured mine employees fluctuates with the ratio that the producing mines bear to the non-producing mines; the larger the ratio of producing mines to the non-producing mines, the nearer will the ratio of coloured to white employees on all mines approach the ratio which prevails on the producing mines.

20. I regret that it is not possible, owing to the loss of the late Government's records, to institute comparisons with regard to the labour employed before and since the war by the whole Transvaal gold industry. As the necessary data are lacking, accurate comparisons can only be made for the Witwatersrand. However, these may fairly be considered representative of the entire Transvaal.

21. In conclusion I would state that, as far as can be gathered, the European workmen on the Witwatersrand do not resent the employment of Chinese workers, nor do they consider that the employment of Chinese constitutes an encroachment on the rights of the white population. On the contrary, they are aware that if the further importation of Chinese were prohibited and the 25,000 coolies now employed on these fields sent out of the country, the result would be to throw some 3,000 white mine employees out of work and also to injuriously affect a very large number of persons who are indirectly dependent on the mining industry for their support.

22. I attach a statement showing the numbers of whites, coloured, and Chinese employed by the mines of the Witwatersrand and the ratios of whites to coloured and Chinese on these mines for the nine months from April to December, inclusive, 1904.

The figures for the month of July, 1899, are also given for purposes of comparison.

The month of July is selected in the year 1899 as being the last month previous to the war for which the labour returns were still unaffected by the imminence of hostilities.

I have, &c.,
MILNER,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 47.

STATEMENT showing Increase in the Number of Whites, Coloured, and Chinese employed by all the Gold Mines on the Witwatersrand.

Month.	Total Number Employed.			Increase Over Previous Month.			Ratio of Whites to Coloured plus Chinese
	Whites.	Coloured.	Chinese.	Whites.	Coloured.	Chinese.	
1899.							
July	12,530	107,482	—	—	—	—	1 to 8·578
1904.							
April	12,039	72,011	—	48	*597*	—	1 „ 5·981
May	12,414	70,608	—	375	*1,403*	—	1 „ 5·688
June	12,730	68,174	1,004	316	*2,434*	1,004	1 „ 5·434
July	13,038	67,187	1,388	308	*987*	384	1 „ 5·260
August	13,690	67,138	4,945	652	*49*	3,557	1 „ 5·265
September	13,775	69,587	9,020	85	2,449	4,075	1 „ 5·706
October	13,857	72,425	12,965	82	2,838	3,945	1 „ 6·162
November	14,233	75,347	17,469	376	2,822	4,504	1 „ 6·521
December	14,346	77,218	20,885	113	1,871	3,416	1 „ 6,838

NOTE.—1. Number of Companies employing Chinese in December = 17.

	Whites.	Chinese.	Coloured.
2. Labour figures for these 17 Companies are	3,657.	20,885.	5 997.

Figures in italic indicate Decreases in Coloured labour.

No. 48.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received March 11, 1905.)

SIR, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, February 20, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 30th January,* I have the honour to enclose for your information, a copy of a statement for the month of January, 1905, of mortality amongst Chinese labourers on the Rand.

I have, &c.,
MILNER,
Governor.

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* No. 39.

Enclosure in No. 48.

THE CHAMBER OF MINES LABOUR IMPORTATION AGENCY, LIMITED.

RETURN OF MORTALITY AMONGST CHINESE LABOURERS.

January, 1905.

Dysentery	8
Beri-Beri	5
Accident	3
Abscess of Liver	2
Enteric	2
Inflammation of Kidneys	1
Pneumonia	1
Peritonitis	1
Abscess of Lung	1
Opium Smoking and Diarrhœa	1
Septicæmia	1
Enlarged Liver	1
Chronic Enteritis	1
Syphilis	1
Acute Diarrhœa	1
Cause unknown	1
Total	31

Total in employ of members at January 31, 1905—27,187.

31=0.11 per cent. of total employed.

Johannesburg,
February 14, 1905.

No. 49.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received March 11, 1905.)

SIR, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, February 20, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you a copy of a general report on the importation of Chinese labourers into the Transvaal, which I have received from Mr. Evans the Superintendent of the Foreign Labour Department.

I have, &c.,
MILNER,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 49.

GENERAL REPORT ON CHINESE LABOUR.

February 13, 1905.

It is twelve months since I arrived in the Transvaal to organise the Department now known as the "Foreign Labour Department."

As Superintendent I am charged with the general administration of the Labour Importation Ordinance, 1904, and I take this opportunity of giving a brief report of my twelve months' work, showing the organisation of the Department, the results of the importation and the hopes that may be entertained for the future.

The Department consists of:—

1. Transvaal Emigration Agents in China.
2. Durban staff.
3. Head office in Johannesburg.

There are at present three emigration agents in China, stationed at Hong Kong, Chinwangtao (near Tientsin) and Chifu.

At Hong Kong is Mr. Cowan, a very capable and experienced officer, who speaks fluently many of the southern dialects of Chinese. He was seconded from the Civil Service of the Federated Malay States.

Mr. Walter, seconded from Weihaiwai, where he was Magistrate, is stationed at Chinwangtao and Captain Barnes of the Waihaiwai Regiment is at Chifu. Both these officers have had experience in dealing with Chinese and both speak the Mandarin dialect of Chinese which is spoken with slight variations all over North China.

Their most important duty is to ensure that every labourer who comes here under the Ordinance does so of his own free will after full explanation and thorough understanding of the terms of the indenture or contract. This duty has been most conscientiously carried out, and I am satisfied that there has been no single case of a labourer brought here by fraudulent representations.

It is also a part of their duty to see that the ships provided for the conveyance of these labourers are in every way suitable and conform with the requirements of the Convention concluded between the Governments of the United Kingdom and China. This duty, as a rule, devolves on Mr. Cowan at Hong Kong, where the ships fit out and make any alterations required. The attached list of the ships engaged in conveying these labourers to South Africa is a sufficient guarantee of the suitability of the ships, and I can, from personal experience, speak of the satisfactory manner in which these ships have been fitted and of the readiness of the charterers to make such alterations and improvements as are required by this Department.

At Durban, where all labourers are disembarked, the staff consists of a Boarding Officer and Depôt Inspector who is reinforced on the arrival of each ship by a sufficient number of clerks, &c., to carry out the registration of the contract. His duty is to board each ship on arrival, to see that the master of the ship has complied with the requirements of the Ordinance, to arrange for the landing of the labourers and to report generally to me on all matters connected with the voyage and the arrival of the labourers. He is seconded from the Straits Settlements where he has had some years service in the Chinese Protectorate.

The head office in Johannesburg consists of myself, the Secretary to the Department, the Inspectors, the Clerical Staff and the Identification Staff. I am personally and directly responsible that the accommodation provided for the labourers is sufficient and suitable. I occasionally visit Durban in order to see that the work is duly carried out and to see for myself the arrangements and condition of ships on arrival. I make a point of visiting every mine employing Chinese labourers, passing among the men, speaking to them, inspecting the rooms, hospitals, kitchens, &c., whenever I can find time.

The Inspectors—at present two in number—to be increased to four—spend the whole of their time inspecting the mines. I attach a copy of the instructions issued to them which will show the comprehensive nature of their work.

The Secretary and Clerical Staff have, in addition to the ordinary clerical work of a Government Department, to keep records which will reach large numbers before the end of the three years which terminates the first contract. These records require unusual accuracy owing to the stringency of the regulations prohibiting these labourers from remaining in this country. And in this connection the work of the Identification Staff is invaluable. On the accuracy of their work, on the ease and certainty with which records can be identified depends the safe working of the Ordinance, for it is by the evidence of identification, as proved by the finger prints taken and classified by us on Mr. Henry's system, that an unwilling labourer can be finally returned to China.

The procedure from the first arrival of the intending emigrant at the depôt in China is briefly as follows:—

At Hong Kong, at Chinwangtao (12 hours' rail from Tientsin) and at Chifu an agency has been established and at the two former places a depôt has been built. At the latter premises have been acquired for the purpose. Intending emigrants are received into the depôt and the following morning undergo a preliminary medical examination. Men obviously unfit for heavy manual labour or suffering from any disease that renders them unsuitable are straightway refused by the doctor and sent away from the depôt.

Those who pass the doctor are numbered in regular numerical progression: their names, addresses, parents' names, details of family, age, &c., are entered in the registers and they are photographed. On his photograph card is written the name, number, age, height, and noticeable physical marks of each man.

The main details of the contract are then explained to them and if they express their acceptance of the same they are passed into the depôt.

Copies of the contract in Chinese are posted about and distributed amongst them and from time to time the agent either personally or by one of his writers gives an explanation of the contract and answers any questions put by the coolies.

The period of the stay in the depôt is uncertain, but not less than forty-eight hours as it depends upon the number who come in and as to whether a ship is ready to sail. As a rule there has been no delay when a sufficient number for one ship has been collected.

On receipt of a telegram from me giving the names of the Companies employing the labourers by each ship, the numbers allotted to each such Company, the mines on which they are to work and the name of the person authorised to sign the contract on behalf of the employer, the Emigration Agent at once begins the final signing of the contract.

The coolies are brought up in batches: the contract which they already know, is once more read to them; they are asked by the Agent personally if they are willing to go on those terms and, if they do express themselves as willing, they make their mark on the contract sheet opposite their names.

They then pass on to the bathroom where they have a bath in which a disinfectant is mixed: they receive a new suit of clothes, blanket, hat, &c., and again come before the Doctor, who is accompanied on this occasion by the Surgeon-Superintendent, who will take charge of the ship.

If they pass this examination they move on to the Cashier who pays over the advance of $.30: they get their metal badge, bearing the number they have borne in the depôt, and they are then ready to go on board the ship.

As a rule one "headman" is chosen for every 100 men and one "sub-headman." A number of picked men are appointed police, many of them being non-commissioned officers in the Weihaiwei Regiment and several of them wearing medals (Jubilee, Relief of Pekin, Tientsin).

The labourers on each ship are accompanied by one or more Chinese-speaking Europeans who have accepted engagements to remain on the Rand as Chinese Controllers at the mines where these labourers are employed. With three exceptions every mine employing Chinese has a resident Chinese Controller in addition to Interpreters.

Each ship accommodates about 2,000 labourers and is in charge of a Surgeon-Superintendent, an Assistant Surgeon and two or more Chinese Dressers and Hospital Attendants. A gang of sweepers and scavengers is organised from the labourers and special pay is given to them and all who are called for any duty during the voyage, which takes about 30 days from Chinwangtao to Durban.

On arrival at Durban the ship is boarded by my Boarding Officer, the Port Health Officer, the Immigration Restriction Officer and an officer from the Port Captain's Department. If all is in order she is berthed alongside the Bluff Wharf on the opposite side of the bay from the town of Durban.

The labourers are at once disembarked, entrained and taken some five miles to the depôt situated at the head of the bay. This depôt is a commodious building consisting of large airy well-lighted rooms built round two big quadrangles with accommodation for 4,000 men. Kitchens with steam cooking, latrines, bath and wash houses of excellent construction, and ample accommodation are provided for each quadrangle. Between the two quadrangles are offices for the work of my Department and outside the main gate is a hospital with accommodation for 80 men, offices and quarters for the staff and the small body of Natal Police on duty there. The railway siding runs just in front of the gate.

Meals of rice, meat, and vegetables, with tea are served at 7 a.m. and 4 p.m., and tea is also served at noon. A small shop is opened for a short time each day for the sale of cigarettes, cakes, bread, &c., and is extensively patronised.

On arrival at the depôt the work of registration begins at once. The contracts which come down with the men are gone through; each man comes into the office in turn, gives his name, age, and such other details as may be necessary to establish his identity; is compared with his photograph, is asked if he is a willing emigrant and if he has received the advance marked against his name. If all is in order he is given his passport—a brass badge, with his number and the name of his employer—and his new number is entered on the contract. He then passes on to the identification clerks where his finger impressions are taken according to the "Henry" system and he goes back into the compound ready for the train up to the Witwatersrand.

The following morning and each succeeding morning at 8.40 a train of specially fitted carriages is drawn up to the siding. These trains were fitted up by the Natal Government Railways and I can speak very highly of them. Each train consists of eight third-class coaches with seven compartments in each coach. The centre compartment is fitted up as a latrine and is available for the whole coach. Drinking water is laid on and the carriages are lighted by electricity. The train travels at the rate of the ordinary mail train taking about 27 hours to do the journey. Meals of rice, meat, vegetables, tea, and bread are served at Pietermaritzburg, 1.30 p.m.; Escourt, 6 p.m.; and Standerton, 6 a.m. They are eaten in the train, being neatly and expeditiously served by the Railway Refreshment Contractor's men. Accommodation is also provided on each train for two conductors, a permanent staff being employed for this purpose by the mines, and for interpreters and Chinese medical assistants. A train can convey about 400 labourers.

In nearly every case the mine has a siding on to which the train is run and the labourers are detrained on the mine premises not infrequently within a few yards of the compound.

The procedure at the head office is as follows:—

Every Company desirous of introducing Chinese labourers must send to me an application to introduce, stating the number required. Such application must be accompanied by:—

(*a*) Plans in duplicate of the accommodation proposed giving details of rooms, hospital accommodation, bathing and sanitary arrangements, and

(*b*) A Power of Attorney from the Company to some person or persons in China authorising them to sign the necessary contracts.

If these plans are in accordance with the requirements of the Government as to air space, light, ventilation, &c., and if the Medical Officer of Health, Transvaal, to whom one copy is sent, approves of them, I visit and inspect the premises.

If it appears to me that the accommodation is approximately ready and if the necessary Power of Attorney has been deposited with me, I cable to the Transvaal Emigration Agent authorising him to permit A.B. to sign as Attorney for C.D. a contract with X labourers for work on the following mines.

On receipt of a cable from the Emigration Agent that the labourers have sailed a bond is prepared and signed by the employing Company guaranteeing the expense of repatriating these men whenever such repatriation may take place.

A further visit to the mine premises on the completion of the work is necessary and the licence is thereupon signed by the Lieutenant-Governor.

The accommodation provided for these men is excellent. The majority of them are accommodated in buildings specially erected for them since my arrival on the Rand. These new rooms are built of brick, have large sash-windows giving light and air, are lofty, with covered ventilators along the roof and air holes in the wall; are provided with stoves and special ventilating stove pipes, are lighted by electricity and have impervious floors. The sleeping bunks are, as a rule, in two tiers arranged along the two side walls of each room. The best type of room gives accommodation for about 40 labourers, allowing 200 cubic feet for each man.

These rooms are arranged so as to form an enclosed space, commonly known as the "compound," in the centre of which stands the large kitchen where all the cooking is done by steam, the large staff of cooks having been selected in China and sent down here for this special work. Beside the kitchen is a big bath house with granolithic floor supplied with numerous tubs to which hot and cold water is laid on. Here the labourers bathe and wash their clothes and it is rare to find the room unoccupied. In many compounds a huge dining hall to seat from 500 to 1,000 men is a prominent feature though the necessity for, or advantage of, this is still a matter of discussion. The latrines are placed outside the compound with a passage way leading to them. Some Companies have installed septic tanks and treat all their sewage, but the majority follow the custom of the country and provide pails which are removed daily.

The compound itself is by no means a prison. It is closed by a big gate, but the gate is always open except at night and the labourer is free to walk in and out just as he pleases. He is legally and practically allowed to go where he pleases on the mine premises which in some cases extends to miles. He is warned by notices put up on boards at the mine limits that he must go no further without a permit, yet he frequently goes on out of idle curiosity until stopped by a policeman.

The labourers on each mine are looked after by a Chinese Controller who, in most cases, speaks the language fluently and is looked upon by the labourers as their friend and adviser. In the hospitals, which are kept for Chinese exclusively on each mine, the coolies are attended by Chinese trained medical assistants under a qualified European medical man. A European steward and dispenser is attached to many hospitals.

My Inspectors and I myself are constantly visiting the compounds and carrying out the instructions above referred to.

There are now on the Rand 28,000 labourers, and 4 ships conveying 7,500 are on the water.

These men are distributed amongst 27 mines from Randfontein on the extreme west to Geduld on the extreme east. With the exception of a certain number who are satisfied to do as little work as possible to earn their shilling a day and daily food, the men are working cheerfully and well. They are more orderly in their habits and more cleanly in their rooms than the natives. Large numbers of them are earning very good pay and to the surprise of all here are spending their earnings freely. Cigarettes, bicycles, aerated waters, watches, and European clothes are freely purchased. It is said that the tea provided each man to take on shift is used for moistening the hole he is drilling, while for his own consumption he buys a bottle of lemonade. In many cases the really first-class bread provided is thrown away on leaving the compound.

There have been disturbances and no doubt there always will be troubles, but I am convinced that the larger the number of Chinese on the Rand the fewer will be the riots which have been generally due to the ignorance and nervousness of the Chinese on finding themselves in a strange country with none of their own countrymen round about. The freedom allowed to these labourers—notwithstanding the cry of "slavery" raised by those who were unaware of the facts—is a great safeguard against serious disturbances, for it allows the man who thinks he has a grievance to go and compare notes with his friends on neighbouring mines and to discover that after all his grievance is merely a misunderstanding.

The cry of "slavery" has touched me personally.

I have for over 20 years been a member of the Civil Service of the Straits Settlements and for the greater part of that time I have been closely in touch with the Chinese of the Colony. I submit that the record of my service in that Colony and the trust that the Chinese of that Colony have in my fair dealing is such as to utterly refute the slightest suspicion of anything approaching slavery in any undertaking controlled by me.

The labourers are as free as any man under an agreement can be. They may terminate their contract at any moment on refunding the expenses of bringing them here and taking them back and are not in any way liable if by so doing they utterly disorganise the work of the mine.

They are looked after when sick—the sick return, which is sent to me weekly by each mine, showing a very small percentage—and if so sick that they have become permanently incapacitated for work, are sent back to their homes at the expense of the employer.

A certain number of bad characters will no doubt have to repatriated before long, but this is really no hardship to them, as it involves no punishment on arrival in China, and it will make for the general good to get rid of them.

There will be no difficulty about sending the labourers home on the termination of their period of service, because our system of identification is so complete that we can absolutely rely upon it.

The death rate up to the end of January was 23.16 per thousand per annum, but if the deaths from beri-beri be excluded (and there is no reason why this disease should figure so largely in the returns in future) the death rate is only 15.4, which compares very favourably with the normal death rate in the large towns of England.

There appears to be no reason to set any limit to the number of labourers to be introduced, as it will automatically limit itself. Labourers will not be introduced unless there is a demand for them to fill up the complement of any particular mine or to supplement the general labour supply. From the reports of improvement in the native labour supply it does not appear probable that this latter contingency will arise so that when once the mines which are employing Chinese labour have their full complement the introduction of further labourers will be limited to making good the wastage caused by death and repatriation.

About 55,000 will, apparently, complete the requirements of the mines which have decided to work with Chinese labour, and this number should be here by the end of July or August. After that date an occasional ship will suffice unless circumstances alter or the unforeseen occurs.

The returns for the month of January show an output of £1,517,349 worth of gold from the Rand. This is only £124,676 below the highest pre-war aggregate which was the month of August, 1899. There is no doubt that the Chinese labourers are proving a very useful factor in the prosperity of the mines and the prosperity of the mines undoubtedly means the general prosperity of the Transvaal.

This brief resumé of my twelve months' work will show that, in my opinion at least, the experiment has been an undoubted success and will be more so from day to day if the present standard of fair treatment and honest supervision is maintained.

W. EVANS,
Superintendent.

Foreign Labour Department,
Johannesburg.

LIST OF SHIPS ENGAGED IN TRANSPORTING CHINESE LABOURERS TO SOUTH AFRICA.

Name of Ship.	Tonnage.	Accommodation for.	Charter Expires (with option of renewal).
Tweeddale	4,432	1,500	Charter cancelled (after second voyage).
Swanley	4,500	2,400	June, 1905.
Courtfield	4,592	2,300	June, 1905.
Cranley	4,644	2,425	September, 1905.
Ikbal	5,434	2,425	After 4 voyages.
Ascot	4,334	2,250	August, 1905.
Lothian	4,959	2,425	After 5 voyages (say, October, 1905.
Sofala	5,381	2,375	After 1 voyage.
Sealda	5,382	2,375	After 1 voyage.
Inkum	4,727	2,250	September, 1905.
Sikh	5,020	1,890	October, 1905.
Katherine Park	4,387	2,000	January, 1906.
Inkula	5,137	2,400	December, 1905.
Indravelli	4,899	2,000	December, 1906.
Indrasamha	5,197	2,000	October, 1907.

INSTRUCTIONS TO INSPECTORS.

1. There will be one Chief Inspector who will reside in Johannesburg and Inspectors who will reside out of town at such places as the Superintendent shall from time to time decide.

2. Each Inspector will be expected to keep a horse for the purpose of his work. A horse allowance is granted.

3. The Chief Inspector will inspect all the mines from time to time and will supervise the work of the Inspectors, examining their diaries and report books. He will draw the attention of Inspectors to any errors or omissions in their work and will give general instructions as to carrying out the details of the work.

4. The duties of an Inspector are:—

(*a*) To visit and inspect periodically each mine employing Chinese labour within his district.

(*b*) To keep a diary showing dates and hours of all visits of inspection to such mines.

(*c*) To keep a report book for each mine which shall contain a clear report of each such visit of inspection.

(*d*) To report immediately to the Superintendent through the Chief Inspector any matter which he considers of importance in connection with any mine.

(*e*) To carry out all lawful orders of the Superintendent or Chief Inspector.

5. Inspection consists in:—

(*a*) Examination of compound, noting if clean and in good order.

(*b*) Examination of labourer's rooms, noting if ventilators, windows, air holes are in working order; noting the number of occupants of each room; noting if rooms are kept clean and in good order.

(*c*) Examination of latrines, noting if sufficient accommodation and if suitable arrangements are made, and carried out, for the removal of the night soil, noting if kept clean and in good order.

(*d*) Examination of wash houses and change houses, noting if sufficient and suitable accommodation for bathing and washing clothes and if all is clean and in order.

(*e*) Examination of kitchen, scullery, and dining hall, noting if clean and in good order; examining the food, noting if good, and occasionally checking the rations served, by weighing when being served, and by examining figures supplied by Manager as to amounts given out to the cooks.

(*f*) Examination of hospital, noting if clean and in good order, seeing that "headboards" are supplied for each inmate and kept up to date, seeing that "admission and discharge" books are in order.

(*g*) Scrutiny of books and registers kept in the time office, noting if payments are made when due, that no deductions, other than lawful ones, are made from earnings; if all necessary entries in connection with the labourers are duly made and kept up to date.

(*h*) Conversing personally, if possible, or through an Interpreter, with any labourers, explaining the position of Inspector and enquiring generally as to the conditions of work, &c.

(*i*) Receiving money from the labourers for remittance to China and handing the same to the Secretary, who will keep an account of the same.

6. Under the provisions of the Ordinance an Inspector may at any time:—

(*a*) Enter upon the premises on which Chinese labourers are employed and inspect the condition and general treatment of such labourers and the condition of their housing accommodation and hospital accommodation. (Section 3.)

(*b*) Enquire into any complaint which an employer may have against a labourer or which a labourer may have against his employer or any person placed in authority over him by such employer. (Section 3.)

(*c*) Require any labourer to be brought before him on any such visit of inspection. (Section 3.)

(*d*) Make a complaint or lay an information in his own name on behalf of a labourer before a Magistrate of the district. (Section 3.)

(*e*) Summon any person as a witness. (Section 4 (1).)

(*f*) Take evidence upon oath. (Section 4 (3).)

(*g*) Inspect the register kept by the importer and enquire as to entries and returns. (Section 17.)

(*h*) Demand passport and permit from any person suspected to be a labourer. (Section 20 (1).)

(*i*) Arrest in default. (Section 20 (2).)

(*j*) Demand from employer payment of wages due. (Regulation 27.)

(*k*) Sue for the same. (Regulation 27.)

(*l*) Receive wages due to deceased labourer and hand the same to Superintendent. (Regulation 28.)

7. Every Inspector will, whenever possible, leave word at his house or office where he is likely to be found during the day.

8. Visits of inspection will be paid at all hours of the day and night so that the Inspector will be able to see the labourers in all the varying circumstances of their work both on the surface and underground.

9. The Chief Inspector will be responsible for the accuracy of the registers and returns kept and made under the Ordinance.

Further Instuctions for Inspectors.

On arrival at any mine for the purpose of inspection you will notify the Manager of the mine of your intention in order to allow him an opportunity of accompanying you if he so desires. In cases where the Manager's office is adjacent to the compound, you will call there and personally notify your intention. Where the mine office is

distant, you will call at the compound office, and request to have your arrival telephoned to the Manager.

It is to be understood that this will in no way interfere with your inspection, which will be carried out forthwith, whether the Manager accompanies you or not.

In the event of it being, in your opinion, advisable to make any particular visit of inspection without notifying the Manager, you will do so, reporting in writing to me, with your reasons.

Foreign Labour Department,
Johannesburg,
January 13, 1905.

No. 50.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received March 18, 1905.)

SIR, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, February 27, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 30th January,* I have the honour to enclose, for your information, a statement of convictions and sentences on Chinese labourers for the month of January, 1905.

I have, &c.,
MILNER,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 50.

CONVICTIONS AND SENTENCES ON CHINESE LABOURERS—JANUARY, 1905.

Crime.	Nos.	Sentences.
Desertion	94	From 10s. fine or seven days' hard labour to £4 fine or six weeks' hard labour.
Theft	3	From three weeks' hard labour to six weeks' hard labour.
Assault	8	From one month hard labour to two months' hard labour.
Travelling without Permit...	17	10s. fine or three days' hard labour to £1 fine or 20 days' hard labour.
Riot	Nil	

No. 51.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received 12.50 p.m., March 21, 1905.)

TELEGRAM.

March 21. No. 1. Referring to my telegram of 23rd February, No. 5,† further increase of white workmen in Witwatersrand mines in month of February is officially returned as 289.

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* No. 42.

† No. 43.

No. 52.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received 1.23 p.m., March 21, 1905.)

TELEGRAM.

March 21. No. 2. Referring to my telegram of 24th February, No. 1.* Total number of persons employed by gold mines of whole Transvaal on 28th February: white, 15,831; coloured 97,882; Chinese, 31,424.

No. 53.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received March 25, 1905.)

SIR, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, March 6, 1905.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 24th February, No. 2, and my despatch of the 27th February,† I have the honour to enclose, for your information, supplementary returns of convictions and sentences on Chinese labourers for (1) the period 22nd June to 31st December, 1904, and (2) the month of January, 1905, showing in how many cases fines were paid or sentences served where the option was given.

I have, &c.,
MILNER,
Governor.

Enclosure 1 in No. 53.

CONVICTIONS AND SENTENCES ON CHINESE LABOURERS.

SUPPLEMENTARY RETURN.

Period from 22nd June to 31st December, 1904.

Crime: Desertion.

Numbers.	Sentences.	Fine paid or otherwise.
33	10*s.* or seven days	Three cases fine paid. 30 cases sentence served.
10	£1 or seven days	Four cases fine paid. Six cases sentence served.
13	£1 or fourteen days	Sentence served.
10	30*s.* or seven days	Sentence served.
6	£3 or one month	One case fine paid. Five cases sentence served.
1	£5 or two months	Sentence served.
84	£5 or one month	Sentence served.
157		

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* No. 44.

† Nos. 45 and 50.

Crime: Refusal to Work.

Numbers.	Sentences.	Fine paid or otherwise.
12	10s. or seven days	Sentence served.
9	£1 or seven days	Three cases fine paid. Six cases sentence served.
22	£2 or one month	Eight cases fine paid. 14 cases sentence served.
1	£3 or three weeks	Sentence served.
30	£3 or one month	Sentence served.
6	£4 or six weeks	One case fine paid. Five cases sentence served.
9	£5 or six weeks	Sentence served.
1	£5 or two months	Sentence served.
1	£10 or two months	Sentence served.
1	£25 or two months	Sentence served.
92		

Crime: Travelling without Permit.

Numbers.	Sentences.	Fine paid or otherwise.
3	5s. or seven days	Sentence served.
2	10s. or three days	Sentence served.
30	10s. or seven days	Four cases fine paid. 26 cases sentence served.
2	10s. or 14 days	Sentence served.
10	£1 or seven days	Sentence served.
7	£1 or 14 days	One case fine paid. Six cases sentence served.
2	£2 or 14 days	Sentence served.
3	£2 or one month	Sentence served.
1	£3 or six weeks	Sentence served.
60		

Crime: Assault.

Number.	Sentence.	Fine paid or otherwise.
1	£1 or seven days	Fine paid.

Enclosure 2 in No. 53.

Convictions and Sentences on Chinese Labourers.

Supplementary Return.

For the month of January, 1905.

Crime: Desertion.

Numbers.	Sentences.	Fine paid or otherwise.
1	10*s.* or seven days	Sentence served.
6	£1 or 14 days	One case fine paid. Five cases sentence served.
2	30*s.* or one month	Sentence served.
58	£2 or one month	Sentence served.
1	£3 or one month	Sentence served.
1	£4 or six weeks	Fine paid.
5	£5 or one month	Sentence served.
20	Cautioned and discharged.	
94		

Crime: Travelling without Permit.

Numbers.	Sentences.	Fine paid or otherwise.
4	10*s.* or three days	Sentence served.
3	10*s.* or seven days	Sentence served.
1	10*s.* or 14 days	Sentence served.
1	£1 or seven days	Sentence served.
2	£1 or 14 days	Sentence served.
1	£1 or 20 days	Sentence served.
5	Cautioned and discharged.	
17		

Crime: Malicious Injury to Property.

Numbers.	Sentences.	Fine paid or otherwise.
5	£2 or one month	Sentence served.

No. 54.

High Commissioner VISCOUNT MILNER to Mr. LYTTELTON.

(Received March 25, 1905.)

Sir, High Commissioner's Office, Johannesburg, March 6, 1905.

With reference to my despatch of December 5th, 1904,* I have the honour to enclose, for your information, a return of mortality in the South African mines for the period of October 1st to December 31st, 1904.

I have, &c.,
MILNER,
High Commissioner.

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* No. 23.

Enclosure in No. 54.

Mortality Returns of Mines for the period October 1st to December 31st, 1904.

	Cape Colony.				Natal.				Orange River Colony.				Transvaal.				Southern Rhodesia.			
	White.	Yellow.	Black.	Total.	White.	Yellow.	Black.	Total.	White.	Yellow.	Black.	Total.	White	*Yellow.	Black.	Total.	White.	Yellow.	Black.	Total.
Number of deaths from accidents, including homicide and suicide	—	—	10	10	—	—	4	4	—	—	7	7	18	15	84	117	?	—	9	—
Rate per 1,000 per annum ...	—	—	2·09	1·80	—	—	3·219	3·076	—	—	4·9	4·316	4·569	3·501	3·562	3·680	?	—	5·38	—
Number of deaths from diseases, &c.	1	—	123	124	—	—	41	41	—	—	30	30	50	99	1,112	1,261	?	—	80	—
Rate per 1,000 per annum ...	1·28	—	25·69	22·27	—	—	32·996	31·538	—	—	21·012	18·492	12·691	23·132	47·164	39,662	?	—	47·82	—
Total number of deaths from all causes.	1	—	133	134	—	—	45	45	—	—	37	37	68	114	1,196	1,378	?	—	89	—
Rate per 1,000 per annum ...	1·28	—	27·78	24·07	—	—	36·215	34·614	—	—	25·021	22·808	17·260	26·636	50·726	43·342	?	—	53·20	—
Average number of employés	3,119	None	19,150	22,269	237	None	4,970	5,207	776	None	5,711	6,487	15,758	17,119	94,308	127,173	?	None	5,188	—

* Yellow includes Indian coolies.

No. 55.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received April 1, 1905.)

SIR, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, March 13, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 23rd January,* I have the honour to enclose, for your information, a copy of a comparative statement, January, 1904 and 1905, of mortality amongst natives employed in mines in labour districts.

I have, &c.,
MILNER,
Governor.

Enclosure in No. 55.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF MORTALITY AMONGST NATIVES EMPLOYED ON MINES IN LABOUR DISTRICTS, JANUARY, 1904 AND 1905.

Month.	No. of Natives employed.		No. of Deaths from Disease.		Death Rate per 1,000 per annum from Disease.		No. of Deaths from Accident.		Death Rate per 1,000 per annum from Accident.		Total No. of Deaths.		Total Death Rate per 1,000 per annum.	
	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.
January ...	79,161	94,905	370	334	56·09	42·23	19	43	2·88	5·44	389	377	58·96	47·67

No. 56.

MR. LYTTELTON to LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR SIR A. LAWLEY.

(Sent 3.10 p.m., April 3, 1905.)

TELEGRAM.

[*Answered by No.* 58.]

April 3. No. 1. Press telegram reports riot North Randfontein Mine. Please telegraph particulars.

No. 57.

MR. LYTTELTON to LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR SIR A. LAWLEY.

(Sent 7.10 p.m., April 6, 1905.)

TELEGRAM.

[*Answered by No.* 60.]

April 6. No. 2. Matter most urgent. Referring to my telegram, 3rd April, No. 1.† Please telegraph before Monday full statement as to nature of riot and casualties.

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* No. 36. † No. 56.

Further question in Parliament on that day asking what was average rate of wages paid to labourers on North Randfontein Mine before recent riot; whether labourers have been in Transvaal for six months, which would entitle them to minimum wage of 1s. 6d. a-day; whether they were recently ask to sign supplementary contract, and, if so, what were the terms. Please let me have materials for answer.

No. 58.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR SIR A. LAWLEY to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received 8.10 p.m., April 6, 1905.)

TELEGRAM.

April 6. No. 2. Your telegram of 3rd April, No. 1.* Have caused enquiry to be made on North Randfontein Mine and received report last night. There appears no reason to doubt that this was an organized strike resulting from a dispute between mine manager and the labourers as to interpretation of clause 6 of the contract of service. The labourers claim that each individual labourer was bound to receive 50s. per month irrespective of amount of work which they might perform. Endeavours were made to explain the difference between average wage and individual wage, but without success. On the 29th March the whole night shift refused to do more than 12 inches of work, and the few who drilled more than that amount were set upon and beaten by their comrades. On the 30th March the manager reported that all the boys had struck work but that they were well in hand and he anticipated no difficulty in coming to satisfactory settlement. On the 31st March the strike continued, and one of the coolies gave the manager the names of ringleaders who had organized the strike. It was then determined to arrest them, and the police were called in for this purpose. Thirty-six of the ringleaders were taken into custody, when the whole number of 2,000 coolies set on the police with sticks, stones, spades, &c., and a general riot began, which lasted all day. The police, though greatly out-numbered, behaved with great self-restraint, and eventually arrested the 59 ringleaders without firing a shot. No lives lost. As soon as ringleaders had been removed the remaining coolies went quietly to their work. I anticipate no further difficulty when this question of an average wage has been settled and fully explained to labourers.

No. 59.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received April 8, 1905.)

SIR, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, March 20, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 20th February,† I have the honour to enclose, for your information, a copy of statement for the month of February, 1905, of mortality amongst Chinese labourers on the Rand.

I have, &c.,
MILNER,
Governor.

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* No. 56. † No. 48.

Enclosure in No. 59.

THE CHAMBER OF MINES LABOUR IMPORTATION AGENCY, LIMITED.

Return of Mortality amongst Chinese Labourers, February, 1905.

Beri-beri	11
Accident	11
Dysentery	6
Opium smoking	3
Enteric	2
Enteritis	1
Locomotor Ataxia	1
Appendicitis	1
Peritonitis	1
Heart disease	1
Suicide	1
Acute Meningitis	1
Phthisis	1
Amputation of leg	1
Gastritis	2
Cause unknown	1
Total	45

Total in employ of members at 28 February, 1905 = 31,389.
45 = 0.14 per cent. of total employed.

Johannesburg,
March 18, 1905.

No. 60.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR SIR A. LAWLEY to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received 3.45 p.m., April 8, 1905.)

TELEGRAM.

April 8. No. 1. Your telegram, 6th April, No 2.* Head boys on the North Randfontein Mine incited all other labourers on the mine to refuse to drill more than 12 inches during a shift of 10 hours, a hole of 36 inches being accepted ordinary day's work for unskilled labourers. Work in mine was impeded for three days, when mine management decided have ringleaders arrested and charged before Magistrate. Ringleaders resisted police and were joined by about half of coolies employed on mine. Disturbances ensued which only lasted about half-an-hour; casualties practically nil. Coolies had been in Transvaal six months. There has not yet been time since expiration of six months employment to compute rate of wages paid, but assessment appears to be under £2 10s. Coolies on day work were receiving eighteenpence per ten hour shift for ordinary day's work. Coolies on piecework or desiring piecework were offered opportunity of accepting and signing a supplementary agreement in terms of clause 6 of the contract of service at following rates :halfpenny per inch drilled, with a bonus of threepence per shift if 36 inches or over were drilled. Acting Superintendent has most carefully explained to coolies this offer, which is more favourable to ordinary worker that day pay of eighteenpence.

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* No. 57.

No. 61.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR SIR A. LAWLEY to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received 7.6 p.m., April 10, 1905.)

TELEGRAM.

April 10. No. 1. My telegrams of 6th April, No. 2, and 8th April, No. 1.* To explain apparent discrepancy please understand that while the general disturbances lasted all day, actual hand-to-hand fighting, in which half the coolies were engaged, only lasted about half-an-hour.

No. 62.

MR. LYTTELTON to LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR SIR A. LAWLEY.

(Sent 1.30 p.m., April 11, 1905.)

TELEGRAM.

[*Answered by No.* 63.]

April 11. No. 1. Matter most urgent. Please state cause of outbreak at Jumper's Deep Mine, 9th April; how many were concerned; how many arrested, and, if their trial has already taken place, what sentences inflicted. Is it true that coolies stoned the mounted police for three hours? Information required by telegraph for question asked in Parliament.

No. 63.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR SIR A. LAWLEY to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received 5.25 p.m., April 14, 1905.)

TELEGRAM.

April 14. No. 1. Referring to your telegram, 11th April, No. 1,† cause of outbreak at Jumpers Deep was that leave of absence had been temporarily restricted owing to recent contraventions by coolies of section 19 of the Labour Ordinance. About 400 coolies broke out of bounds and were intercepted by police about two miles from compound. Police turned coolies back to compound. Certain number got on railway line and threw stones without effect. Twenty-nine were arrested and are being charged with riot and assault, but trial has not yet taken place. Coolies were only absent from compound for one and a-half hours. Whole incident unimportant.

No. 64.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT MILNER to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received April 15, 1905.)

SIR, Governor's Office, Johannesburg, March 27, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the number of unskilled white labourers employed in the Witwatersrand gold mines on the 31st December last, on work which, prior to the war, was performed by Kaffirs, was 772. Of this number, 253 were of British nationality, 470 were Boers, and 49 were aliens.

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* Nos. 58 and 60. † No. 62.

It is quite impossible to say to what extent these 772 unskilled labourers were included in the 998 mentioned in my despatch of the 9th May last.* The whole experiment has been unsatisfactory, for the very reason that these white labourers have declined to work for any length of time. In fact, so fluctuating has been the supply, that the Rand Mines, Limited; whose Companies employ, approximately, half the total unskilled white labourers on these fields, have found it necessary to engage no fewer than 5,818 men, in order to maintain an average of 474 unskilled whites in employment for the year. The average length of each man's employment was only 25 days.

I have, &c.,
MILNER,
Governor.

No. 65.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR SIR A. LAWLEY to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received 12, noon, April 22, 1905.)

TELEGRAM.

April 22. No. 5. My telegram of March 21st, No. 2.† Total number of persons employed in gold mines of whole Transvaal on 31st March: white, 16,225; coloured, 105,184; Chinese, 34,335.

No. 66.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR SIR A. LAWLEY to MR. LYTTELTON.

(Received 11.30 a.m., April 22, 1905.)

TELEGRAM.

April 22. No. 6. Referring to my telegram, 21st March, No. 1,‡ further increase of white workmen in Witwatersrand mines in month of March is officially returned as 375.

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* No. 10 in Cd. 2104. † No. 52. ‡ No. 51.

APPENDIX No. I.

(A.)

THE TRANSVAAL GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, January 27, 1905.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE No. 57 OF 1905.

CHINESE LABOUR.—RIOTS AND DISTURBANCES.

His Excellency the Acting Lieutenant-Governor has been pleased to make the following regulation for the introduction of labourers from China under the powers conferred on him by Section twenty-nine of the Labour Importation Ordinance, 1904.

E. H. L. GORGES,
Acting Assistant Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Pretoria, January 24, 1905.

Regulation No. 43.—Riots and Disturbances.

Every employer of labourers shall report to the Superintendent or to an Inspector of the Foreign Labour Department in the event of any disturbance arising amongst the labourers in his employ which necessitates the calling in of police assistance.

Any employer failing to do so shall be liable to a fine not exceeding Fifty pounds or in default of payment to imprisonment for a period of three months.

Such report shall be given when possible by telephone or by messenger immediately on the outbreak of such disturbance, and a written confirmation of the same shall be sent by registered post to the Superintendent not later than seventy-two hours after such outbreak.

(B.)

GOVERNMENT NOTICE No. 1303 OF 1904.

[In Government Gazette of 15th December, 1904.]

Regulations issued under Section 29 of Ordinance No. 17 of 1904.

It is hereby notified for general information that His Excellency the Acting Lieutenant-Governor has been pleased to order that the following Regulation shall take the place of Regulation No. 20 made on the 2nd of June, 1904, and published under Government Notice No. 777 of 1904,* under the powers conferred on him by Section 29 of the Labour Importation Ordinance, 1904.

E. H. L. GORGES,
Acting Assistant Colonial Secretary.

PASSPORTS.

Regulation No. 20.

Every labourer shall carry a passport, which shall be issued to him by the Superintendent. The passport shall be a tin ticket, on which shall be clearly imprinted the registered number of the labourer and the name of his employer.

The passport fee shall be two shillings a month, and shall be paid by the employer in advance for six months on the 1st of January and 1st of July in every year. In the case of labourers arriving in the Colony during any half-year the fee shall be at once payable for the unexpired portion of the current half-year.

(C.)

GOVERNMENT NOTICE No. 212 OF 1905.

[In Government Gazette of 3rd March, 1905.]

Regulations issued under Section 29 of Ordinance No. 17 of 1904.

It is hereby notified for general information that His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, under the powers conferred on him by Section 29 of the Labour Importation Ordinance, 1904, has been pleased to order that the annexed Regulation shall take the place of Regulation No. 20, made on the 15th December, 1904, under Government Notice No. 1303 of 1904, and further that the annexed Form shall take the place of Form No. 6 issued under Government Notice No. 777 of 1904.

W. H. MOOR,
Assistant Colonial Secretary.

* Printed at p. 3 of [Cd. 2183].

Passports.

Regulation No. 20.

Every labourer shall carry a passport which shall be issued to him by the Superintendent. The passport shall be a tin ticket, on which shall be clearly imprinted the registered number of the labourer.

The passport fee shall be 2s. per month, and shall be paid by the employer in advance for six months on the 1st January and the 1st July in every year.

In the case of labourers arriving in the Colony during any half year, the fee shall be at once payable for the unexpired portion of the current half-year.

The penalty for neglect to render this Form is laid down in Section 32, Sub-section (3).

Form No. 6.

Return of number of Labourers introduced by and transferred by or to during the month of 190 , under Section 16 of the Labour Importation Ordinance, 1904.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Government Passport Numbers of Labourers introduced during the month.	Government Passport Numbers of Labourers transferred during the month from or by to	Government Passport Numbers of Labourers transferred during the month to by	Government Passport Numbers of Labourers repatriated during the month.	Government Passport Numbers of Labourers who have deserted during the month, and who have not yet been arrested; state date.	Government Passport Numbers of Labourers convicted of desertion during the month; state sentence and date.	Government Passport Numbers of Labourers convicted during the month of an offence other than desertion or unlawful absence; state offence and sentence.	Government Passport Numbers of Labourers unlawfully absent from work during the month; state period of absence from work.	Government Passport Numbers of Labourers who died during the month.	Total Number of Labourers in employ of on last day of month.

TRANSVAAL GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, PRETORIA, February 10, 1905.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE, No. 130 OF 1905.

FOREIGN LABOURERS.—QUARTERLY RETURN.

The accompanying return, supplied by the Superintendent of Foreign Labourers, is published for general information in terms of Section 21 of the Labour Importation Ordinance, 1904.

W. H. MOOR,
Assistant Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Pretoria, February 9, 1905.

QUARTERLY RETURN under Section 21, Ordinance, No. 17, of 1904, for the Quarter ending December 31, 1904.

(*a*) Number of licences issued	18
Number of licences cancelled	Nil.
(*b*) Number of labourers introduced into this Colony	14,441
Country of origin	China.
(*c*) Number of labourers repatriated	322
(*d*) Number of labourers died	108
(*e*) Number of families introduced	2
Families returned	Nil.
(*f*) Contravention of Ordinance, Section 31 (11)—	
Desertions convicted	299
Refusals to work convicted	92

Foreign Labour Department,
Johannesburg, January 26, 1905.

APPENDIX No. II.

NATIVE AFFAIRS.

REPORT BY THE COMMISSIONER FOR NATIVE AFFAIRS, TRANSVAAL, FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1904.

In consequence of the decision to change the date from the calendar to the financial year for the framing of Departmental Reports, my last Report* was dated 15th February in the present year. This Report will not, therefore, be so full as usual.

In all previous Reports since 1901, it was indicated both by myself and the Native Commissioners, that the social upheavals which convulsed the whole of South Africa during the war produced a disturbing effect on the native mind. The wave of unrest pervaded more or less all the Colonies and Dependencies, and the Transvaal experienced its full share, more especially in those parts where there is a density of native population. The process of re-settlement was one of labour and patience. Many of the natives who had been disturbed in their occupation disliked the idea of returning to their old domiciles, and clamoured greatly for land upon which to settle independently.

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* Printed in No. 13 in [Cd. 2025.]

I was able after the Legislative Council prorogued last year to make an extended tour through the Transvaal, and took the opportunity to hold "indabas" in the Districts of Lydenburg, Barberton, Zoutpansberg, Waterberg, Pretoria, and Rustenburg, at centres previously arranged, to which the natives could more conveniently come in large numbers.

During that tour all the principal chiefs and clans were either present or represented, and were allowed to express their views, their feelings, and their grievances. I explained to them clearly and fully all that it was necessary for them to know about the new Government, and what changes had taken place in the laws affecting natives. They were given to understand that the existing Government locations were all practically absorbed, and that the whole land question was occupying the attention, not only of this Government, but of all the Governments in South Africa.

I lost no opportunity of impressing upon the natives the necessity of their abandoning the rather hostile attitude many of them had taken up towards the farmers since the war, and the desirability of their reconciling themselves to settlement upon farms where they had opportunities of becoming happily domiciled and established on sound relations with the farmers.

During a period of several weeks' continuous travelling, I saw a great number of people, and discussed with them freely every subject of importance to themselves and to the Government.

I must observe that during that extended tour the natives displayed a respectful demeanour and conducted themselves well. They expressed their desire to be law-abiding and their anxiety to enjoy the good opinion of the Government and people of this Colony.

During the year under review they have proved themselves to be law-abiding, and have rendered submission to all orders which they have received from the Government. Criminal statistics relating to the district natives do not reveal any large amount of crime in proportion to the population. The statistics for crime at mining centres like the Witwatersrand do, I fear, show a considerable amount of crime. In such areas there is a certain percentage of white criminals of the lowest order, from whom natives criminally inclined are apt and are able to take lessons with evil results.

I regret to say that the wave of unrest to which allusion has been made spread through the Eastern and Northern Transvaal, and caused some excitement in the early months of the present year. It appeared to emanate from the southern border, which is contiguous to Zululand, from whence there is no doubt that a good many messages passed to the Transvaal at that time.

Nothing was done by the natives to justify the alarmist rumours which were spread in many cases by designing people for purposes of their own; after some guns had been distributed to the white farmers in the Zoutpansberg District the excitement subsided, and the unrest disappeared. It had, however, the effect of disturbing a good deal of our work, for it happened at that time of year when the taxes were being collected, with the result that the collection was much less than it ought to have been. Generally speaking, there was a good deal of unnecessary excitement which took a considerable time to allay, and it has not tended to improve the relations between Europeans and natives. The best antidote to this kind of excitement is to promote satisfactory relations between European farmers and the natives, and to encourage the latter to settle upon the land under useful agreements as to tenure. All the officers of the Native Affairs Department have received instructions in that sense, and have done their best to promote such relations, but, as a general rule, no great enthusiasm has been evinced on either side to make agreements.

The policy of the Government, and the best policy to adopt, is one that brings the races into harmony, in so far as that is practicable. In my report of last year I dwelt at some length upon the laws which governed the administration and outlined the general policy being pursued. It seems scarcely necessary to repeat it, but a perusal of that Report is invited by those who are interested in the question.

The European and native races are inter-dependent upon each other—the one for labour and the other for sustenance. Unfortunately, the demands for labour at the great industrial centres are so great that many who ought to be working on the land are attracted away, and agriculture is thus impoverished. Labour will always be attracted to the market where the best pay is offered, and if that pay is such as to enable the labourer to work for a short period and then enjoy a long period of leisure, I have a firm and settled conviction that it is undesirable. That standard of wages for natives is, in my opinion, best which enables them to supply all their reasonable wants and promotes in them industrious habits. If they are enabled to have long lapses of idleness and work spasmodically only, they are the worse for it. I allude here to the wages given to raw natives straight from the kraals. The town natives, who are in daily employ and live in town locations, have to meet heavy charges for rents and sanitation, and require a higher standard of wage to meet such charges.

These questions are, however, governed very largely by the laws of supply and demand, and not by statute laws or State policy.

The statute laws in this Colony affecting natives differ from those in the other Colonies of South Africa. We find in some Colonies the common law only prevailing; in others a specific native code; and in this Colony a mixture between the two. Chieftainship has disappeared from some Colonies and is maintained in others. In this Colony it was, in the past, nearly eradicated.

The forms of Government also differ in every Colony. When they were adopted they suited the circumstances of the country, and their adoption, no doubt, in each case served a useful purpose.

The aim, of course, must be to discover what form of administration is best for the days we live in, and to bring about changes in a quiet and circumspect way. Violent changes are to be deprecated. They tend to disturbance and unsettlement, are never understood, and the record of history shows that they have invariably led to confusion and trouble. It is easy to pull down an established order, but unwise to do so unless some appropriate substitute is ready. There are no short cuts in native affairs, and no remedies to be found in immature legislation, which often has produced results of a reactionary nature.

What is called the native question is a great problem not to be approached in a spirit of irritation, nor aggravated by intolerance, or by embarrassing those who are pursuing the safest course and are making silent efforts to deal with that problem.

It is barely more than two years since the country was plunged in a great struggle which had a dislocating effect. It has been expected unreasonably that re-settlement and re-adjustment would follow immediately as if no storm had raged, but this is contrary to entire history.

The war resulted in the disturbance of many natives who had peacefully settled down on farms. Every effort has been made to induce them to return, but some have sought again the shelter of their old clans, whilst others have become nomadic and form a discontented class.

It may be claimed, and rightly claimed, that there was much to do and that much has been done towards pacification and re-settlement. It is certain that no policy would have averted changes that have come over the natives since the war convulsed South Africa.

These changes are due to natural causes. The natives are not so amenable as they used to be nor so respectful to the Europeans. I much regret it, and believe that it is a change for the worse. But so long as the European races are placed in the position of imploring the native races to work for them and are obliged to offer wages which agriculturists, in particular, cannot afford to pay, the natives will regard themselves as important economic factors, and will believe that they occupy a position in which good manners are not essential.

The most useful course to adopt in moderating this tendency is to employ always a sufficient number of competent men, both officers and native police, by whose agency Government can keep in touch with and advise those who are imbibing loose and perhaps dangerous ideas.

2.—District Administration.

The duties and jurisdiction of Native Commissioners, Sub-Commissioners, and Native Police were stated fully in my last year's Report.

In accordance with the policy foreshadowed in the Third Section of that Report (Page A. 4), steps have been taken to transfer the conduct of negotiations on matters relating to native affairs in certain districts from Native Commissioners to Resident Magistrates. Three Native Commissioners, who were in charge of large areas in the Eastern, South-Eastern, and North-Western Divisions, have been removed and their duties absorbed by various Resident Magistrates.

The offices of Sub-Native Commissioner for the Districts of Piet Retief, Standerton, Ermelo, Potchefstroom, Lichtenburg, and Heidelberg were abolished on the 30th June; whilst the Sub-Commissioners in the Districts of Wakkerstroom, Middelburg, Lydenburg, Barberton, and Waterberg have been placed under the control of the Resident Magistrates.

The effect of these changes is that in certain districts all communications relative to native affairs will be conducted through the Magistrates, in consultation with the Commissioner for Native Affairs.

In my Report of last year I expressed the conviction that, if any wholesome control is to be exercised over natives, there must be men in every district whose special business it is to look after them, and that at the same time a sufficient body of native messengers should be maintained for the purpose of keeping close touch with native feeling and thought. Without such native messengers it is practically impossible for the Government to derive information, to preserve intimate acquaintance with current political affairs, or to hold that constant communication which is so necessary with Chiefs and people. Not only is this necessary for the maintenance of order, but the Chiefs and people, who contribute a large sum to the revenue, have a right to expect the Administration to afford them means of converse with its appointed representatives.

The natives are, as a rule, illiterate, and cannot become acquainted with the laws and orders of Government except by verbal communication. This indispensable body of native messengers has, for financial reasons, been reduced to a degree which is, in my opinion, prejudicial both to the cause of order and to the regular and prompt collection of revenue. From every point of view, the strength of officers and natives should be properly maintained, so that efficiency may not be impaired and that proper control may be ensured.

I have frequently alluded to the fact in comparing the establishment of the late Government with ours, that there were formerly over 100 Field-cornets who carried on district duties as Sub-Commissioners for natives, and whose services are not now available to us.

The reports of the District Native Commissioners will speak for themselves. But I must bear powerful testimony to the fact that they and their subordinate officers have acquitted themselves with credit, and have discharged most valuable duties to the Government and people

of this Colony. Their removal in some cases, on account of retrenchment, has met with remonstrance from the public and formed the subject of discussion in the last Session of the Legislative Council.

3.—Land.

A special report issued by me on the question of the land occupied by natives, not only sets forth the present position in regard to such land, but gives the history of the treatment of this question from the earliest days of the late South African Republic to the beginning of the last Boer War.

Upon laying this Report before His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, I took occasion to explain that it has entailed much labour and research, and that I was much indebted to the officers of the Native Affairs Department, who had either collated or furnished the information, more particularly the Secretary for Native Affairs, the Assistant Secretary, and the Native Commissioners, Northern and Western Divisions.

In many instances the land on which the aboriginal tribes were living at the arrival of the Boer immigrants, or before that time, was allotted to the farmers as it was found suitable for European occupation. The natives were obliged either to regain possession of the land by purchase or to become tenants of the farmers.

The events or vicissitudes by which natives have come to be established on their present places of residence are briefly traced in the report, and reference is made to the tribes who were granted locations in conformity with treaty obligations between the South African Republic and Her late Majesty's Government.

A number of treaties by which native chiefs ceded territory to the South African Republic are also referred to, and the circumstances in which certain tribes rebelled and were dispossessed of their land and broken up by the Boers are described. Chiefs to whom locations had been promised by the late Government, or who, from the number of their people, were entitled to locations, are named in the report.

The early refusal of the Government of the late South African Republic to allow natives to hold land in their own names is recorded, and it is shown how natives adopted the expedient of buying farms, which were registered in the names of missionaries. The change by which natives were, during the first British Occupation, allowed to buy land, to be registered in the name of the Secretary for Native Affairs, as Trustee, is mentioned, as also is the fact that this principle was subsequently affirmed by the London Convention. It is shown that this method of registration was followed by the late Government up to the outbreak of hostilities. Lists of farms acquired by natives by purchase, or granted to them as locations, accompany the report.

Returns compiled by this Department show that the land principally occupied by natives is equivalent to about one-fourteenth of the whole area of the Transvaal, and is approximately as follows:—

(*a*) Government Locations: Area, 2,120 square miles; 1-52nd part of the Transvaal.
(*b*) Farms owned by natives: Area, 853 square miles; 1-130th part of the Transvaal.
(*c*) Undefined Locations on Private Farms: Area, 3,863 square miles; 1-29th part of the Transvaal.
(*d*) Undefined Locations on Government Farms: Area, 1,008 square miles; 1-110th part of the Transvaal.

It thus appears that the land now exclusively reserved for native purposes by the Government and farms actually owned by natives themselves is equal to not more than 1-38th part of the whole Colony.

The remaining area is held either by European individuals and companies or by the Government.

It will at once be seen therefore that the natives are practically secured in their occupation of only a very limited extent of land, whilst the great majority of them are merely in the position of tenants at will.

The conditions under which natives are allowed to live upon private or Crown land have been, as far as possible, assimilated.

On Crown land they are in the position of tenants of the Lands Department, subject to three months' notice on either side. Each male adult pays an annual rent of £1, and agrees to give, if required, six months' labour every year at the current local rate of wages. This contract confers the right (*a*) to cultivate such land as may be allotted to them, (*b*) to graze such stock as may be their *bonâ fide* property, and (*c*) to use such wood and water as may be needed for ordinary domestic requirements.

With regard to private farms, the system has been adopted of encouraging a definite agreement, in writing, between the landowner and his native tenants, which is authenticated and recorded by the Native Commissioner of the Division. This agreement sets forth the conditions of tenancy as regards residence, cultivation, grazing, and fuel on much the same lines as prevail in connection with tenants on Crown land, though the rate of wages and amount of labour is separately determined in individual cases.

The system was instituted in consequence of the many difficulties which had arisen between farmers and their native tenants, and its operation hitherto has been satisfactory. About 400 contracts have been recorded in the District Offices of the Department.

The question of squatting and the Squatters' Law is fully dealt with in a separate memorandum presented to the Legislative Council, which, for the purpose of reference, is printed as Annexure "A" hereto.

4.—Labour.

At a Conference held in Bloemfontein in March, 1903, which was attended by official representatives from all the territories of British South Africa, a resolution was adopted in the following terms:—

> "That the Conference, after considering all available statistics and hearing the reports "of the highest official authorities of the several States, has come to the conclusion "that the native population of Africa, south of the Zambesi, does not comprise a "sufficient number of adult males capable of work to satisfy the normal require- "ments of the several Colonies and at the same time furnish an adequate amount "of labour for the large industrial and mining centres.
>
> "Under these circumstances, it is evident to the Conference that the opening of new "sources of labour supply is requisite for all the South African States."

The continued scarcity of unskilled labour became a matter of such grave concern to the prosperity of the Colony that a Special Commission was appointed by the Transvaal Government to enquire into the necessities of the agricultural, mining, and other industries, and to ascertain how far it would be possible to obtain an adequate supply of labour to meet their requirements from Central and Southern Africa.

The Commission sat in Johannesburg from the 21st July to the 6th October, 1903.

Evidence was taken from witnesses from all parts of Central and South Africa.

Its exhaustive investigations led a decided majority of the Commission to the following conclusions:—

(1) That the demand for native labour for agriculture in the Transvaal is largely in excess of the present supply, and, as the development of the country proceeds, this demand will greatly increase.

(2) That the demand for native labour for the Transvaal Mining Industry is in excess of the present supply by about 129,000 labourers, and, whilst no complete data of the future requirements of the whole industry are obtainable, it is estimated that the mines of the Witwatersrand alone will require, within the next five years, an additional supply of 196,000 labourers.

(3) That the demand for native labour for other Transvaal industries, including railways, is greatly in excess of the present supply, and will increase concurrently with the advancement of mining and agriculture.

(4) That there is no adequate supply of labour in Central and Southern Africa to meet the above requirements.

The issue of this report was shortly afterwards followed by the introduction of a Labour Importation Ordinance, which was passed in the local Legislative Council by a large majority. Regulations have since been passed for the importation of Chinese labourers, a large number of whom are now actually employed on the mines.

Probably few questions have aroused so much general feeling in South Africa as the policy of the importation of Asiatics. There is no doubt that public opinion was united in a strong opposition to the proposal until it was shown by the definite findings of this Commission that the available native labour supply of South Africa was inadequate for its industrial needs.

The mining industry is still suffering for want of labour. Recruiting operations have been actively carried on throughout the native territories of South Africa by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association and by numerous independent labour agents, with the result that the supply has, during the past twelve months, been gradually augmented, though the increase is hardly appreciable when the enormous demand is taken into consideration.

During the last two months there has been a decrease in the output of labour from Portuguese Territory, which is ascribed to plentiful crops.

The following figures will illustrate the position this year as regards native labour within the Labour Districts of the Witwatersrand, compared with the situation as it was on the 1st July, 1903:—

1st July, 1903.		1st July, 1904.		Increase.	
Mines.	Other Employ.	Mines.	Other Employ.	Mines.	Other Employ.
67,782	49,131	77,567	55,716	9,785	6,585

Appendix No. 18 shows that the total number of natives employed within the Labour Districts during the year exceeded that for the preceding twelve months by more than 16,000 and that nearly the whole of this increase was derived from:—

District.	Approximately.
Natal, which contributed 33 per cent.	4,000
Cape Colony, which contributed 34 per cent.	4,000
Transvaal, which contributed 38 per cent.	8,000
Total	16,000

A significant feature of this return is that the increase from Portuguese Territory, which supplies almost half of the entire labour for the mining districts, was only 5 per cent., or rather less than 3,000 men.

The Portuguese authorities attribute this result to the facts:—

(1) That the crops this season were abnormally high (no such harvest having been reaped for nine years), and the natives were consequently indulging in feasts and beer-drinking at their homes;

(2) That the natives had not the same opportunities now as they formerly had of spending their earnings on the goldfields; and

(3) That they were, therefore, returning from labour with large sums of money accumulated during the period of their service there.

It is difficult to account for the shortage from other sources, which amounted to about 5,000.

British Central African Natives.—The circumstances under which arrangements were concluded through the Foreign Office with the Uganda Administration for the recruitment of native labour within the Protectorate were briefly referred to in my Report for 1903, paragraph 9, page A. 9. It may here be mentioned again that, under an agreement between the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association and His Majesty's Commissioner for the British Central African Protectorate, over 700 natives were engaged for service on the mines as an experiment. A full report upon these natives was presented to the British Consul-General at Zomba on the 26th September, 1903, by Mr. J. C. Casson, who had been specially commissioned to Johannesburg for the purpose of enquiring into their general condition and treatment. The results of this experiment were not at first encouraging, but the prospects of its success have since become much more hopeful.

Anxious to persevere with the enterprise, the Chamber of Mines sought and obtained permission in February last to engage a further contingenet of 5,000 labourers. It has been arranged, however, that these natives shall not be brought down to the mines until the winter season is over.

Meanwhile, Mr. Knipe, an officer of the British Central Africa Administration, has been seconded from that Service for employment by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association to superintend all British Central Africa natives working on the mines.

A return of natives from the Protectorate at present on the Rand is enclosed. (See Appendix No. 27.)

Portuguese West Africa.—Upon the representations of the Chamber of Mines, communications were entered into with the Portuguese Government in November, 1902, with the object of obtaining permission for the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association to send agents to institute enquiries and to recruit native labour, if possible, in Portuguese West Africa.

The negotiations which ensued were concluded by a note from the authorities in Lisbon, dated the 29th December, 1903, to the effect that the Portuguese Government regretted that it was not possible, at all events for the present, to accord its assent to this proposition.

German West Africa.—Towards the end of 1902 an agreement was made between the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association and the Governor at Swakopmund for the recruitment of native labour in German West Africa, and the first gang of labourers arrived from there at Johannesburg, *viâ* Capetown, on the 27th December, 1902. Further batches have since been received, and there are now 731 men from that part of South Africa employed on the mines.

It is to be regretted that this experiment has not been so satisfactory as to encourage any hope of procuring an appreciable supply of labour from this source.

As compared with other natives engaged upon the mines, it has been found that the Damaras are unruly and difficult to manage.

Mozambique.—At the instance of the Chamber of Mines an enquiry was addressed by His Excellency the High Commissioner in January last to the Governor of Mozambique as to whether the Portuguese Government would be prepared to assent to an extension of the contract period of service with natives recruited in Portuguese Territory north of parallel 22 from one to two years, in view of the heavy expenses entailed upon the mines by importation from such distant regions. A reply was received on the 16th March to the effect that this proposal could not be favourably considered.

5.—Health.

The general health of the natives in the Transvaal is good.

No serious epidemics have occurred. Leprosy is to be found in nearly every district, and venereal diseases are very prevalent.

Pulmonary tuberculosis is increasing, and may, if not arrested, assume serious proportions. It is held to be due to two principal causes:—

(1) The use of European clothes, which tends to diminish hardiness; to the loss of physique and of the power to resist exposure.
(2) Continual bad seasons, during which the people are impoverished and suffer from loss of their natural food, such as the nourishing millet, and the inability to obtain milk owing to the loss of cattle from disease.

6.—Plague.

Ever since bubonic plague made its appearance in South Africa it was feared that it might, sooner or later, find its way from the coast ports to Johannesburg, which was particularly exposed to contagion by the natural gravitation of population and traffic to such an important centre of industry.

Unfortunately, the disease did break out on the 20th March; first in an acute pneumonic, and subsequently in a bubonic form. As soon as the first proved cases were reported, a Committee was appointed by the Government to deal with the outbreak. Effective measures were immediately taken for the treatment of patients and to isolate the infected area, known as the Coolie Location, which was inhabited by Indians and natives, not far distant from the heart of the town. Measures were also adopted to prevent the movement of coloured persons without medical certificates of health throughout the Witwatersrand District.

The assistance of this Department was invoked to ensure a strict observance of these necessary precautions, especially at the different Pass Offices. The location was subsequently entirely destroyed by fire, and the inmates moved to a camp some nine miles distant from the town, where it is now intended that they shall be permanently located. All the personal effects of the natives resident in the location were assessed by officials of this Department before its destruction, so that they may be duly compensated for their property.

The removal of this and other native locations from the town has been undertaken in the best interests of the whole community.

It is always difficult to control the sanitation of a coloured settlement within the precincts of a Municipality. Overcrowding invariably takes place in squalid tenements, which give rise to disease, and ultimately drift into an asylum of vice and criminal resort. The establishment and control of such locations is engaging the earnest attention of the Johannesburg Municipality, in consultation with this Department.

It is manifestly undesirable to allow any unauthorised residence of natives in the midst of a European community, and I hope that the arrangements now under consideration may be carried out to the benefit of all concerned.

The Special Plague Officer has kindly furnished me with a return, showing the following particulars as to the total number of cases dealt with from the outbreak of the epidemic up to the 30th June:—

Race.	Recovered.	Died.	Under Treatment.	Total.
Whites	11	13	3	27
Coloured	4	—	—	4
Asiatics	2	55	1	58
Natives	22	28	8	58
Total	39	96	12	147

Dr. Mackenzie states:—

(1) That the epidemic has steadily decreased, both in incidence and virulence, from the date of its first appearance in the Coolie Location;
(2) That the amount of infection caused through the epizootic amongst rats is very great, and, in spite of the most drastic disinfection in the infected areas, it is feared that there will be a recurrence of the disease in the wet weather; and
(3) That at present (19th July, 1904) the condition of affairs is very satisfactory, as there has been no reported case of plague for over a fortnight.

7.—Health and General Condition of Native Labourers on the Mines.

A special report upon this question was submitted from this office to His Excellency the Governor on the 31st of March, and forms an enclosure to this Report. (See Annexure "B.")*

It is satisfactory to note from the chart that a marked reduction is already shown in the rate of mortality on mines in proclaimed Labour Districts. (See Appendix No. 29.)

* Printed in No. 12 in [Cd. 2025].

A copy of an interesting report which the Portuguese Curator of Natives in Johannesburg presented to the Governor-General of Mozambique on the 5th June is enclosed. (See Annexure "C.")

It will be seen that the Portuguese Curator records with pleasure "that the natives on the mines are, as a rule, better treated now than they had ever been, enjoying every possible comfort, good food, and lodging which leaves nothing to be desired, either in respect of accommodation or hygiene."

8.—Natives' Compensation Claims.

The Native Commissioners completed the assessment of the claims made by natives in the Transvaal for compensation for war losses early in November last, and some claims have since been received and admitted for special reasons. The total number of claims and the amount assessed are as follows:—

Number of Claims.	Assessed at
	£ s. d.
11,252 Claims for property taken or destroyed by the British Troops	514,105 14 4
4,633 Claims for property taken or destroyed by Boers	147,001 1 9
Total... 15,885 Claims assessed at	661,106 16 1

An extract from a detailed report made by the Secretary for Native Affairs on 18th November, 1903, is attached. (See Annexure "D.")

The admitted claims have been strictly confined to losses of live stock, grain, seed, and agricultural implements.

The distribution of the sum of £300,000 available for compensation to natives in the Transvaal, Orange River Colony, and territory ceded to Natal, having now been settled, the payment of claims will be undertaken as soon as possible.

The amount available for the Transvaal is £114,000, which will allow a dividend of about 3s. 5d. in the pound. The distribution of this money will entail a considerable amount of work, and probably some months will be occupied in its completion.

9.—Natives' Military Receipts.

As mentioned in last year's Report, this Department undertook the work connected with the redemption of Military Receipts which had been given to natives in the Transvaal for stock, &c., impressed from them for the use of the British Army during the war. Up to 30th June, 1903, the number of receipts thus redeemed and the amount paid out was as follows:—

Date.	Receipts.	Amount.
		£ s. d.
——	2,948	163,109 17 8
During the six months ending 31st December, 1903	517	29,381 15 11
Making a total of	3,465	192,491 13 7

This total includes 437 receipts, to the value of £23,529 10s. 0d., which were paid out to Transvaal natives by the Staff Officers for Receipts at Standerton and Newcastle, assisted by Officers of this and of the Native Refugee Department.

In December arrangements were made for the transfer of this work to the Repatriation Department, and the balance of money which had been received in liquidation of receipts, and had not then been paid out to the natives entitled to it, was handed over to that Department. This balance represented 406 receipts, to the value of £12,168 4s. 6d., belonging to natives who had not been traced. There also remained 131 original Military Receipts, amounting to some £2,500, which had been collected from natives by the Military Authorities at different times and places, but had not been assessed or passed for payment, and whose owners had not been traced. There was thus a total of 537 receipts, to the value of £14,600, which remained unclaimed. The unassessed receipts were handed over to the Central Judicial Commission, and it was arranged that applications would be received through the Native Commissioners on behalf of natives claiming any of the receipts up to March 31st, 1904.

A copy of the report sent to the Secretary to the Treasury on 16th January, 1904, on the completion of the arrangements for the transfer to the Repatriation Department is attached. (See Annexure "E.")

Several applications have since been made on behalf of natives whose ownership of receipts has been fully established, and these have been paid out. The reasons why so many receipts are unclaimed are fully stated in the report above referred to.

10.—Native Tax.

The books and receipts necessary to the collection of the native tax were distributed in January, and the collection was subsequently proceeded with, though the bulk of payment was made in the months of May and June.

A sum of £275,775 was actually accounted for to the Treasury on the 30th June, as compared with £271,503 during the corresponding period of last year. (See Appendix No. 17.)

As the District Staff of the Department was almost entirely absorbed in Census work during the month of April, the collection of the tax for the year was set back.

11.—Education.

In the Report of last year the system adopted by the Education Department in the matter of native education was fully set forth. Briefly, it was that assistance given by Government should be granted through the channel of religious bodies of standing, approved by the Government, upon certain conditions, one of which was that each native Mission School receiving aid must be specifically under the superintendence of a white Missionary or other European recognised by Government as competent to exercise efficient control and be responsible for the disbursing of subsidies, furnishing of returns, and the keeping of proper accounts.

The basis of grants were stated to be the satisfactory conditions as regards—

(*a*) Average attendance.
(*b*) Building, general equipment, and sanitary provision.
(*c*) Discipline and organisation.
(*d*) Efficiency and instruction.
(*e*) Local contribution.
(*f*) Government inspection.

Many of the natives are beginning to realise the value of education, and are eager in their desire to avail themselves of its advantages.

Wherever a demand is made for educational facilities and the circumstances admit of it, the Education Department is prepared to co-operate.

A return of schools and other particulars will appear in the Appendix. (See Appendix No. 5.)

It is essential that wherever there is legitimate desire by natives for education, it should be afforded, provided it is controlled and limited, in the case of the masses, to a sphere of instruction likely to be of general use to themselves. The more the standard of native life can judiciously be raised, the more industrious the natives must become, because of the additional wants which follow and the increase of labour required to gratify such wants.

A small body of rather an advanced school of thought have recently established an organisation, known as the African Vigilance Association, having its centre at Pietersburg and supporting a paper called "Leihlo" or "The Eye," the avowed object of which is to ventilate current native opinion and feeling and the cultivation of native interests. So long as such publications are confined to the consideration of social matters, their circulation may be of benefit to the natives; but the treatment of political questions in print is calculated to do more harm than good, because the mass, which is not educated, is quite unable to understand open discussion on such matters, and is apt, not only to place a wrong construction upon the liberty of public discussion, but to be led astray by mischievous people.

A good deal of public criticism has centred round the action and the attitude of what is known as the African Ethiopian movement or African Methodist Episcopal Church. It is a quasi-religious movement, and some of its agents are none too discreet. In many case they have severed themselves unceremoniously from the old established Mission Societies and drawn off a number of their adherents. There is apparently no harmony between this sect and the Mission Societies of South Africa, who are well known for the great work they have done in the past. So far as this Colony is concerned, no official recognition has been given to the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

12.—Census.

Arrangements were made early in the month of November with the principal Medical Officer of Health, who had been appointed as Census Commissioner, for an enumeration of the entire native population of the Transvaal in connection with the general Census which was taken throughout South Africa on the night of the 17th April.

The method adopted by the Department for carrying out this work is described in the enclosed copy of circular instructions to Native Commissioners. (See Annexure "F.")

Nearly all the District Officials of the Department were employed exclusively upon this duty during the month of April. From the reports received it appears that the system of enumeration proved to be a success.

Advantage has been taken of the opportunity afforded by this Census of compiling certain valuable statistical data, which are now appended to this Report.

It will appear from the return of population that the general distribution of the natives is approximately estimated as follows. (See Appendix No. 1):—

Farms	54.1 per cent.
Crown Lands	22.2 per cent.
Locations	20.2 per cent.
Towns	3.5 per cent.

and that the population consists of—

Men	25 per cent.
Women	29 per cent.
Children	45 per cent.

13.—Labour Agents.

The Regulations regarding recruitment were amended in October last to facilitate the supply of native labour. With this object in view, the employment of duly authorised native messengers was legalised, and agents were permitted to recruit for more than one employer at one and the same time, provided that they produced proof that they had *bonâ fide* employment for the natives they engaged, and were not recruiting at large simply with a view to disposing of the services of the natives at as high a price as possible.

During the year 300 licenses have been issued to 234 labour agents, 73 of the licenses being renewals, and 7 being transferred from the original holders. Particulars are furnished in a separate statement herewith.

The total fees for the year amounted to £1,552 10s. 0d. (See Appendix No. 26.)

14.—Compound Overseers.

Two hundred and sixty-three licences, including renewals, have been issued to 149 men who are, or have been, employed in supervision of the natives in the various compounds. The number of companies or employers to whom these overseers have been registered is 115:—

Gold Mining Companies	88
Collieries	14
Central South African Railways	1
Other Employers	16
	119

The number of licensed overseers has been increased by the proclamation of new Labour Districts, the Diamond Fields of Pretoria and Coal Fields of Middelburg now coming under the Regulations.

The total fees amounted to £1,337.

15.—Letters of Exemption.

Since July 1st, 57 additional applications have been made for this privilege and 30 Letters of Exemption have been granted.

16.—Registration Certificates.

In addition to those already registered, 295 coloured persons have applied for this special registration, which appears to be of material assistance to them in obtaining employment.

The registration being for a period of twelve months, many of the certificates first issued have expired, and 155 of those who were in possession of these certificates have applied for a renewal.

As there was reason to believe that this privilege was abused by coloured persons selling their certificates to natives at a considerable premium, a new form of certificate was designed at the expiration of the first year, which tends to minimise this traffic and to render its detection more easy.

The total fees amounted to £458 7s. 0d.

17.—Deposit and Remittance Agency.

The transactions of this Agency have increased during the period under report, as compared with the previous year, and it is apparent that the natives are realising the advantages offered by the Agency.

A number of them still continue to entrust their earnings to friends or relatives returning home, while others make use of Money Orders issued by the Postal Authorities. In the one class of cases, the natives to whom the money is entrusted frequently fail to deliver it to the person for whom it is intended, and the Money Order system is found not to be adapted to the circumstances of uneducated natives. These people are often imposed upon by their better educated brethren, and in some instances the name of the payee is mis-spelt or the native named is beyond the reach of postal communication, and the Money Order thus lapses to the Postal Department.

By contrast, the system of the Remittance Agency is found to afford security with a modicum of despatch, which will in time establish the Agency in the minds of the natives as the recognised medium for sending their earnings to their people.

No money is remitted to Portuguese Territory.

A return is appended showing the remittances to the different Colonies for the past year. (See Appendix No. 40.)

The approach of the annual tax collection always causes an increase in the amount of remittances, and the scarcity of food in the different parts of South Africa during the past year has tended to swell the transactions of the Agency.

The number of sums deposited by natives for safe custody locally has increased. It is becoming more general for natives to open accounts, though the greater number of depositors are men from Natal and Basutoland. Though there are such large numbers of natives from Portuguese Territory employed on the Witwatersrand, the amount they have deposited for safe custody is inconsiderable. No opportunity has been missed of explaining to and impressing upon them the advantages of the Agency.

Numerous applications are received by the Agency from native women, asking that their husbands or sons may be induced to return home or to send mony for the support of their families, and all such matters are attended to in the best interests of the natives.

A return of deposits, withdrawals, and balances accompanies this Report. (See Appendix No. 41.)

The total transactions of the Agency during the year under report were as follows:—

Remittances	...	...	...	...	...	...	£32,395	6	6
Deposits	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,487	9	5
Withdrawals	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,420	12	11

18.—Administration of Intestate Estates of Deceased Natives.

Between the 1st July, 1903, and the 30th June, 1904, there were 169 native estates dealt with by this Department, in respect of which small sums, amounting to £739 7s. 11d., were received and accounted for.

During the same period 113 payments from the Native Estates Account, amounting to £779 1s. 10d., were made to the next-of-kin of the deceased natives and to persons to whom the estates were indebted.

The balance standing to the credit of the Native Estates Account on the 30th June, 1904, was £1,202 1s. 11d., the greater proportion of which may be regarded as belonging to derelict estates.

An inconsiderable number of the estates dealt with are those of natives from Portuguese Territory, and in all such cases the report of death and any funds belonging to the estate are handed over to the local Curator of Natives to the Portuguese Government.

19.—Compensation in Cases of Natives Killed or Injured on the Mines.

The Chamber of Mines recently concluded an arrangement with the different mining companies providing for the payment of compensation to the relatives of natives killed through accidents on the mines or to the natives themselves in cases of permanent disablement. The scale of compensation is:—

(1) In case of death or permanent total disablement: £35.
(2) In case of partial disablement: £17 10s. 0d.
(3) In case of picaninnies or umfaans: half the above amounts.

In the event of the death of a native, the benefits are limited to the deceased's wife, children under age, or parents, if proved to have been dependent upon him.

In the present state of the law, companies are under no liability to natives injured while in their employ, unless negligence can be proved against them.

The scheme for the payment of compensation does not affect the legal position as between the native and his employer, though in no case is any payment made unless the payee gives a receipt in full discharge of any claim he may have against the company.

This Department renders all possible assistance in tracing the beneficiaries where natives are killed through accident.

20.—Native Marriages.

A statement showing the number of marriages solemnised, according to Christian rites, during the period from 1st July, 1903, to June 30th, 1904, is appended. (See Appendix No. 3.)

Ordinarily, these marriages have been celebrated after the publication of banns, but since the 1st July, 1903, two applications were made to the Colonial Secretary for special licenses to enable certain natives to have their marriages solemnised without the publication of banns. The necessary permission was granted in both instances.

21.—Tribal History.

A concise history of the native tribes of the Transvaal is in course of compilation, collected from material obtained by the various Native Commissioners and Sub-Native Commissioners and from records of the late Government.

The history when completed will contain information as to the original place of residence and sphere of influence of the larger tribes of the Transvaal, and will describe the causes of their frequent sub-divisions and migrations.

The history of the tribes belonging to distinct groups will be outlined and many tribal customs and characteristics will be referred to.

22.—South African Native Affairs Commission.

A resolution was passed at the Bloemfontein Conference on the 17th March, 1903, to the following effect:—

"That it is desirable that a South African Commission be constituted to gather accurate "information on affairs relating to the natives and native administration, and to "offer recommendations to the several Governments concerned with the object of "arriving at a common understanding upon the question of native policy. Such "Commission to consist of two representatives from each of the Colonies and one "each from Rhodesia and Basutoland, with a separate chairman to be nominated "by the High Commissioner."

A Commission was accordingly appointed, and met for the first time in Cape town on the 29th September last. It was adjourned during the first week in December, and re-assembled in the Transkei, Cape Colony, on the 11th March, 1904, subsequently sitting in Natal.

Local evidence is being taken at various convenient centres in all parts of British South Africa.

Reports are submitted from the following branch offices of the Department (see Annexures "G," "H," "J," "K," "L," "M," "N," and "O":—

(*a*) Native Commissioner, Northern Division.
(*b*) Native Commissioner, Eastern Division.
(*c*) Native Commissioner, South-Eastern Division.
(*d*) Native Commissioner, Western Division.
(*e*) Native Commissioner, Central Division.
(*f*) Native Commissioner, North-Western Division.
(*g*) Pass Commissioner, Johannesburg.
(*h*) Warden, Government Game Reserves.

Appendices 1 to 45 are also attached.

These documents furnish a general retrospect of the work performed by and under the immediate direction of the responsible officers concerned.

In conclusion, I desire to place on record my appreciation of the good services rendered to Government by the officers of the Department during the year under review.

G. Y. Lagden,
Commissioner for Native Affairs.

Johannesburg, 31st August, 1904.

Annexure C.

Report by Pass Commissioner, Johannesburg, for the year ended June 30, 1904.

On 1st July, 1903, the Departments of Chief Inspector and Controller of Passports were amalgamated and placed under my contral as Pass Commissioner.

A new system of registration was introduced, while, as it was found undesirable and impracticable for passports to be held by natives, it was decided to revert to the same system of issuing monthly passes as had obtained under the late Government.

The passport is now held by the employer and the monthly pass by the native.

To give effect to the new system of registration now in operation it was found necessary to adopt an improved form of register and to carry out a re-issue of passports to all natives employed in Labour Districts. As at the time upwards of 117,000 natives were in possession of passports much labour was entailed in the work of initial organisation, which was satisfactorily accomplished without undue inconvenience to the public.

The Labour District of Germiston, which had been recognised to be an important labour centre, but had not previously received adequate facilities in matters affecting native administration, was, for departmental purposes, made a separate Labour District.

For the convenience of the public in certain residential quarters of Johannesburg, who in the past had been compelled to attend at the Main Pass Office, three extra Branch Offices have been established, which have considerably benefited employers of domestic labour in those quarters, and have done much to reduce the congestion which had been felt in the past at the Main Office.

Further decentralisation has also been effected in the district formerly known as Boksburg, a District Pass Office having been established at Springs and a Branch Office at Benoni.

Natives employed on mines are now treated independently, both as regards registration and statistics, while the system of allotting to Inspectors the work affecting the Mining Industry formerly performed at Pass Offices has been justified, not only by the closer supervision it enables this Department to exercise on natives employed on mines, but also by its admitted convenience to the industry, by whom this consideration has been met with cordial reciprocity.

In Johannesburg District where, in addition to natives employed on mines, a large number of natives are employed in domestic service, in stores, and by contractors, a new Department has been instituted to facilitate the hearing of native complaints, whether with regard to wages or treatment. Advice is given them by a qualified legal man, and action is taken, if necessary, in the interests of the natives, who have derived much benefit through our exertions in this connection. The establishment of this office has had the effect of saving many natives from seeking advice from unscrupulous and extortionate law agents, and thereby engaging often in useless and—to them—unprofitable litigation. The work of the Complaints' Department will be referred to again in the course of this report.

In July, 1903, petitions were addressed to the Commissioner for Native Affairs by the Directorates of the majority of the Diamond Mining Companies in Pretoria District, requesting that the area in which the diamond mines are situated should be proclaimed a Labour District, with a view to bringing the natives employed there under the control provided for in the special Labour Regulations.

Acting on your instructions I visited the Pretoria and Middelburg Districts, and recommended in a report, dated 25th August, 1903, that certain farms embracing the respective Labour Areas should be proclaimed.

This recommendation was given effect to by the Proclamation of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, No. 55, Administration, 1903.

Both areas are now under the inspection and control of officers of this Department.

The statistical returns, which are now collected, have necessitated much detail work, but the system has been fully justified by the fact that this Department is now in a position to provide statistics of the health, mortality, and general movements of the native population in Labour Districts. The territorial returns are valuable in a political sense, as showing at a glance the movements, comparative mortality, and the proportion to the total labour supply of the various tribes which make up the native population in Labour Districts.

The statistical appendices* to this report will, unless it be stated otherwise, cover the whole period of review—1st July, 1903, to 30th June, 1904.

Visit of Cape Delegates.

At the instance of the Government of the Cape Colony, Mr. W. T. Brownlee, Resident Magistrate of the Butterworth District, accompanied by a deputation of native headmen from the various native territories of the Cape Colony, visited the Witwatersrand in September last with the object of enquiring into the condition and treatment on the mines of native labourers from that Colony.

The deputation was accompanied during their inspections by officers of this Department, and visited twelve mines in Johannesburg District, four in Germiston District, and six in Krugersdorp District. Every opportunity was afforded them of prosecuting enquiry, and free access was given them to the compounds, hospitals, and kitchens, and to the native labourers.

Having regard to the innate tendency of the native to air a grievance if the possibility of one existing be suggested, the results of the enquiry must be considered as satisfactory.

Mr. Brownlee was favourably impressed with the compounds, hospitals, and kitchens, and with the liberal diet provided by the mining industry.

During the course of enquiry various complaints—chiefly as to the non-fulfilment of promises as regards wages made on recruitment—were heard. Each case was investigated, and when necessary action was taken to remove the cause of complaint. To a great extent they were cases arising from the misrepresentations of Labour Agents in the Cape Colony.

Visit of Dr. Pinto Coelho.

Dr. Pinto Coelho arrived from Lourenço Marques during last March to enquire, on behalf of the Portuguese Government, into the conditions obtaining on the mines, especially with regard to natives from Portuguese territory.

He visited several mines in Johannesburg, Germiston, and Boksburg Districts, accompanied in each instance by an Inspector of this Department, thoroughly inspected the compounds, hospitals, and kitchens, conferred with the doctors on the mines, and had conversations with Portuguese natives.

The chief object of his visit was to enquire into the high rate of mortality from pneumonia, but at the time of his visit there were comparatively few natives in the mine hospitals suffering from that disease, owing doubtless to the season of the year.

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* Appendix No. xxvii only printed.

On the conclusion of his inspection he expressed himself as well satisfied with the general living conditions of natives on the mines, and the efforts made by this Department and the mining industry generally on their behalf.

Bubonic Plague Outbreak.

On the outbreak of bubonic plague in the Coolie Location, Johannesburg, on March 20th, stringent precautions to prevent the spread of the disease were immediately taken by the Plague Authorities, with whom this Department was instructed to co-operate.

An isolation camp was formed at Klipspruit, to which the inhabitants of the location—of whom upwards of 1,500 were natives—were removed. Prior to their removal the location was visited by officers of this Department, who, at the request of the Plague Committee, assessed the property of the natives, whose return to their employers was subsequently arranged conditionally upon satisfactory accommodation being provided them.

For this purpose a depôt was formed at the Pass Office Compound, Johannesburg, at which natives from the isolation camp were received.

Seventeen natives at the camp, who were found to have been evading the Pass Regulations at the time of the outbreak, were arrested and convictions obtained against them.

As a preventive measure against the spread of the disease the Rand Plague Committee, in conjunction with this Department, arranged for the medical examination at all Pass Offices of all natives applying for travelling passes prior to their being permitted to travel.

A return is submitted, from which it will be seen that up to 30th June, 47,129 natives were so examined, of whom 47,002 were passed as free from plague infection, 29 suspects being removed to the Lazaretto. (See Appendix No. 21.)

Registration Certificates.

As provided in Ordinance No. 28 of 1902 registration certificates, which are valid for a period of twelve months, are issued upon payment of one pound sterling to any responsible and deserving natives who are not entitled to letters of exemption, but whom it is considered desirable to relieve from the operation of the Pass Law.

As it is obvious upon the issue of such a certificate the holder is no longer subject to such close supervision and control as is exercised over natives who are compelled to renew their monthly passes each month, the issue of registration certificates is receiving the close attention of this Department with a view to preventing any abuse of this concession.

Some cases of trafficking in these certificates by unscrupulous persons having occurred, recommendations have been made by this Department that the Ordinance be amended by the inclusion of penalties for the punishment of this offence. It is considered that such provision will have a deterrent effect and reduce this traffic to a minimum.

On 30th June, 1904, registration certificates were in the possession of 556 natives employed in the Labour Districts of the Transvaal.

From the territorial analysis of the natives holding such certificates it will be seen that their issue is practically confined to natives from the Cape Colony, Natal, Zululand, Basutoland, and the Transvaal. (See Appendix No. 20.)

Government Compounds.

The Government Compounds at Johannesburg and Krugersdorp Pass Offices have during the period under report accommodated 11,877 natives, and that at Boksburg has accommodated 281 natives since its completion in the month of March of this year. (See Appendix No. 22.)

Each compound contains a small hospital, which is visited at intervals by the District Surgeon. It was intended that only patients suffering from slight ailments should be accommodated, but no cases are turned away, and a number of destitute natives have found an asylum in these compounds until it has been possible to alleviate their circumstances or to arrange for their return home.

Free drugs and medical attendance are provided in addition to food and lodging.

Natives suspected of desertion are received and detained for six days, free of charge, to expedite identification. It will be seen that up to 30th June, 1,881 natives had been so received in the three districts.

Native prisoners on release from gaol are also accommodated, free of charge, until arrangements can be made for their return to their employers.

In Johannesburg District native witnesses for the High Court are accommodated and detained until required to appear at Court, at a charge of 1s. per diem each, which is defrayed by the High Court.

Crime.

The improved organisation and coincidence of purpose which have been secured by the amalgamation of the Departments previously administered by the Chief Inspector and Controller of Passports have added to the control over natives employed in Labour Districts and to the ready detection of contraventions of the Pass Regulations.

In view of the fact that this Department is primarily responsible for the control of upwards of 140,000 natives—many of whom are of a vicious and dissolute class, and all of whom are brought into contact with novel influences and conditions, often of a demoralising character—and that such control is largely dependent upon a strict enforcement of the Pass Law, it has been found essential to employ a small staff of native police under the direct control of the District Controllers and Officers in Charge of Pass Offices. This policy has been fully justified, as will be seen from the attached return of criminal cases which have been investigated and dealt with by the Department. (See Appendix No. 23.)

8,191 arrests were made and cases investigated.

5,130 cases were remanded to Magistrates' Courts.

4,469 convictions were secured.

In addition 971 arrests were made by the Town Inspector and five native police, which were dealt with by Inspectors and do not appear in the return.

Including these, it will be observed that 9,162 arrests were made and cases investigated during the period under review.

Having regard to the large number of natives employed in Labour Districts, and to the fact that a number of them belong to tribes of a very low order of civilisation, it must be admitted that the state of affairs as regards crime among natives may, generally speaking, be considered reasonably satisfactory, and that it reflects credit upon those who are directly or indirectly responsible for their control.

(a) *Illicit Liquor Traffic.*

(b) *Locations.*

A joint report on these two subjects is submitted, as it is considered that the inefficient control exercised over native locations is chiefly responsible for the increased illicit liquor traffic at the present time.

The condition of the various Labour Districts as regards this traffic leaves much to be desired, and that the evil is steadily increasing is evinced by the fact that complaints of natives being off work owing to drink are now more general than they were at this time last year.

Although I have to record my opinion of this traffic in the above terms, the action of the Government in granting certain companies employing more than fifty natives the privilege of brewing Kaffir beer on their premises, conditionally upon its controlled and free issue to their native labourers, has been beneficial and conducive to a decrease in the quantity of Kaffir beer brewed in those districts where there are few or no native locations.

There are at the present time no less than 108 locations in the Labour District areas of this Colony, their approximate total adult population being:—

Males	10,106
Females	6,415
Total	16,521

Of the above—

13 are controlled by Municipalities or Government Departments.
7 by churches or missionaries.
61 by mining companies.
27 by other companies or private individuals.

Past experience has convinced me that in the majority of instances these locations exercise a demoralising effect on the native population, and constitute one of the chief causes of idleness and crime, more especially of contraventions of the Pass Law and crimes under the Liquor Ordinance.

Some are kept in a sanitary condition and efficient control is exercised over them by a responsible superintendent, but in many cases they are under entirely insufficient control, and are refuges for criminals who evade the law in anticipation of immunity from detection.

Raids have been carried out at intervals by officials of this Department, either alone or in conjunction with the Police or South African Constabulary, resulting usually in the arrest, on various charges, of a number of the location residents and in the seizure or destruction of upwards of 75,000 gallons of Kaffir beer. It is regretted that owing to the small number of native police at my disposal these raids have not been as frequent as I should have desired. In no instance is the need for a strong native police force better exemplified than in the necessity for maintaining a firmer control over native locations.

I strongly advocate the adoption of a system of direct Government control over all locations in Labour District (with the exception of those already controlled by Local Governments), and the licensing of such locations and their superintendents.

The Municipality of Johannesburg have decided that after the 31st August all natives not resident on the premises of their employers will be required to move to a native location—the effect of which in this Municipal area will probably be the simultaneous reduction of the illicit liquor traffic and its kindred evils. I trust that in the near future it may be practicable to extend this procedure to all the Labour Districts of this Colony.

Such a system of controlling the native by controlling his domicile, and of narrowing the field of supervision by consolidating the existing locations and licensing only as many as may be absolutely necessary, together with frequent raids by native police, would not only have an appreciable effect in checking desertion and loafing, and in materially reducing the illicit liquor traffic, but also in bringing the large native population under proper control which, at the present time, is so essential.

Relations to the Mining Industry.

The relations between this Department and the representatives of the Mining Industry have generally been cordial.

It is our practice to accommodate the Industry as far as possible by registering natives at mine offices, thus saving them inconvenience and loss of time, as was caused in the past by their natives being sent to the District Pass Office (in some cases a considerable distance) for registration.

With the same object in view, Branch Pass Offices—open on fixed dates—have been established in some districts for the convenience of the mining companies in their immediate vicinity.

As evidence of the geninue desire of the Mining Industry to co-operate in all matters affecting the health and welfare of the natives employed by them, I would draw special attention to the fact that the improvements which have been effected in the general living conditions of natives on the mines have been carried out in the absence of any law governing the conditions to be observed.

Inspections and Cases Adjudicated by Inspectors.

The position of Inspectors under the present Administration is a wholly different one to what it was under the late Government. Instead of being purely Pass Inspectors appointed for the main purposes of making periodical inspections with a view to guarding against a loss of revenue by evasion of pass fees by the larger employers of labour, these officers' duties are now particularly wide and important and involve the exercise of tact and judgment. In addition to their duties as regards the inspection and issue of passes they are armed with considerable power for redressing grievances or for bringing them, if necessary, before the Magistrate for redress. They have also a limited jurisdiction for the purposes of discipline. They are charged with the inspection of native compounds, the compound sanitary arrangements, hospitals, and attention to sick natives, the quality of the food supply, and the cooking arrangements and dietary. They are, in short, Petty Magistrates on the mines, with the functions of curators of the native labourers.

The present system of supervision has been justified, and, affording as it does an easy means of redress for, *inter alia*, breaches of contract, is entirely in the interests of both employer and employé.

From the attached statement it will be observed that during the past year 5,225 inspections of Mines and Works have been made, and 2,562 cases adjudicated. Of the latter 2,498 were offences, usually breaches of discipline or minor contraventions of the Pass Law, the remainder being disputes chiefly between the natives themselves. (See Appendix No. 25.)

The revenue collected during the period on account of fines imposed by Inspectors amounted to £1,818 19s.

NATIVE COMPLAINTS.

(A) *Complaints dealt with at Pass Offices.*

A considerable portion of the work performed at Pass Offices is in connection with the investigation of disputes between employers and employés, and of complaints which are, for the most part, claims made by natives for wages alleged to be withheld by their employers.

Owing to the great increase in this portion of the work, especially in Johannesburg District, and to the growing inclination of natives to invoke the arbitration of this Department, it was found necessary soon after the commencement of the administrative year to establish an office in this district for the hearing of such complaints.

The total number of claims for wages which have been submitted to the Johannesburg Pass Office since 1st September, 1903, is 1,871, and the amount of wages concerned £6,725 11s.

972	cases were settled in favour of the claimant.
239	cases were settled against the claimant.
166	cases were remitted to the Native Court.
1,377	

In addition 494 claims were brought forward, but their settlement was impracticable owing to one or other of the following causes:—

(*a*) Insolvency of employer.
(*b*) Disappearance of employer.
(*c*) The fact that a number of natives after laying their complaints did not return to the Pass Office. (It is probable that a considerable number of such cases were settled, and that further reference to the Pass Office was unnecessary.)

£4,756 2s. of the amount claimed as due to natives was recovered on their behalf by the Pass Office. The balance of £1,969 9s. was not recovered, owing either to the evidence in support of the claims being insufficient or because the employers were insolvent, or had left the district and could not be traced.

In addition to the complaints in connection with wages, 497 cases were also enquired into, of which 385 were made by natives, who contended that their contracts of service had expired and claimed their discharges, making a total of 2,368 cases dealt with at the Johannesburg Pass Office.

In other Labour Districts:—

581 complaints were enquired into,
489 complaints were settled,
92 complaints were remitted to Court.

The number of cases laid by natives before our officials, which is consistently increasing, is satisfactory evidence of the confidence reposed by them in this Department.

(B) *Complaints dealt with by Inspectors.*

Almost all complaints brought for redress to Inspectors by natives employed on mines are based on:—

(*a*) Non-payment of wages.
(*b*) Payment of a sum less than that promised on engagement.
(*c*) Refusal of the employer to grant discharge on expiration of the term of contract.
(*d*) Ill-treatment by miners or native overseers.

(*a*) During the year one complaint only has been received. It was settled in favour of the complainant, the arrears of wages claimed being paid by the employer, a native contractor.

(*b*) 34 complaints have been laid, of which 5 were referred to Court, and judgment given for complainants, the defendants in 4 of the cases being fined.

29 were settled without reference to Court.

Of the latter:—

3 were found to be unsupported by sufficient evidence and were dismissed.
17 were upheld, it being found that the natives were not being paid the rate of wage promised by their recruiters. Their contracts were therefore terminated, and they were enabled to seek fresh employers.
9 were settled in favour of the complainants who received the sums claimed.

(*c*) 81 complaints of detention beyond the term of contract have been received, of which:—

77 were settled in favour of the employers, the natives having miscalculated their periods of contract, and being ordered to complete them.
1 was remitted to Court, the employer being convicted and fined.
3 were settled in favour of the natives, who received their discharges.

(*d*) 21 complaints as to ill-treatment and assault have been investigated.

14 were referred to the Police, with the result that—
11 were brought before Magistrates and convictions were obtained, the offenders being fined.
1 was brought before a Magistrate and dismissed.
2 were not remitted to Court, owing, in the one case, to insufficient evidence, and in the other to the complainant having left the district before the case came up for trial.
7 cases were settled by Inspectors, of which:—
5 were dismissed owing to insufficient evidence, and 2 were upheld, the defendants, native overseers, being fined and cautioned.

Compound Overseers.

The compound overseers on the mines are, speaking generally, an efficient body of men accustomed and qualified to supervise large numbers of natives.

They are responsible for the control of the natives in their compounds, and take a keen interest in all matters affecting their welfare.

Their registers and returns are, on the whole, well kept and accurate, while assistance has been afforded by them to the officials of this Department in the general administration of the Pass Laws.

Mortality.

The high rate of mortality among natives employed on the mines and other industrial works in the Labour Districts of this Colony during the past twelve months, and especially during the calendar year, 1903, and the causes to which it might be attributable have engaged the earnest attention of the officials of this Department and the mining industry generally.

Much criticism in this connection has been levelled at that industry, at whose door has been laid the blame for the exceptional mortality which has until recently prevailed among their

native labourers. As a solution of the problem, and as the primary cause of the high death rate, the ill-treatment of natives on the mines immediately suggested itself to the minds of certain people to whom the only accurate information available was the published statistics of mortality, and who were ignorant of the conditions obtaining.

In my opinion the alleged inhumane treatment of natives—the existence of which I deny—has had no effect on the mortality, while the general treatment of natives, either as regards housing or feeding, is not the most important factor to be weighed in determining the causes of the abnormally high death rate which undoubtedly has existed in the past.

That we have to look elsewhere for the main causes is borne out by statistics, and supported by the fact that the highest death rate on the mines, during the period 1st July, 1903, to 30th June, 1904, has actually occurred on mines where the attention to the essential living conditions of the natives employed is admitted to be very satisfactory, while the lowest death rates are frequently to be found among mines where the conditions are, in comparison, less satisfactory.

It would, in fact, appear from these results, and from experience gained in visiting mine compounds in various Labour Districts of the Transvaal, that the mere fact of change in the living conditions of the natives from those to which they are accustomed at their homes may unfavourably affect the death rate, even although the change be to conditions which are, judged by ordinary standards, superior.

I understand that a special supplementary report on this subject to that submitted by them, and dated June 6th, 1903, will shortly be furnished by the Committee of Mine Doctors, at whose disposal the statistical information compiled in this Department has been placed. To them I leave the technical treatment of this subject, adding only and emphasising the fact that I am confident that, when fair comparisons of yearly death rates are in the future possible, it will be found that:—

The death rate during the year 1903 was abnormal, and was attributable chiefly to three causes:—

1. The extremely severe seasonal conditions which prevailed during the year.
2. The recruiting of natives of insufficient physique for mine work, brought about by the shortage of the labour supply, and of natives with marked scorbutic tendencies consequent on poor feeding owing to the failure of the mealie crops in their own homes. Many of these were quite unable to withstand the severe climatic change, and died shortly after arrival on the mines.
3. The innate carelessness of natives in guarding against chill and against contracting diseases of the respiratory system, which in the past year have been responsible for 55.01 per cent. of the total deaths.

And that the much reduced death rate during the current year, which is actually falling steadily during the present season when last year it was at its highest, is due to reverse conditions:—

1. The extremely mild seasonal conditions which have prevailed and are now prevailing.
2. The better physique of the natives now arriving, and the greater care exercised by the mining industry in the selection of recruits.
3. The improvements effected in the housing, diet, and clothing of the natives when at work.

In submitting the attached statistics of mortality among natives employed on mines and works in the several Labour Districts of this Colony attention is drawn to the following points:—

Death Rate among Natives employed on Mines and Works.

It will be observed that the total death rate for the past year (1st July, 1903-30th June, 1904) was 59.11 per thousand, the death rate during the last six months of 1903 being 80.05, while that for the first six months of this year was only 40.55 per thousand. As evidence of the marked difference between the seasonal conditions of the two periods, it may be pointed out that while during the former period 1,861 natives employed on mines and works died from diseases of the respiratory system, only 687 have succumbed to such diseases during the latter period. (See Appendix No. 31.)

Death Returns Classified—Coal, Gold, and Diamond Mines, &c.

This return is instructive as showing the comparative death rates among natives employed on:—

(*a*) Gold Mines (Outcrops).
(*b*) Gold Mines (Deep Levels).
(*c*) Coal Mines.
(*d*) Diamond Mines.
(*e*) Surface Works. (See Appendices Nos. 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36.)

It will be seen that on the Outcrop Gold Mines and on Coal Mines there is little difference in the death rates, that in the case of the former being 58 and in the latter 59.3 per thousand.

The death rate on the Deep Level Gold Mines (67.4 per thousand) is, as would be expected, higher than on the Outcrop Mines.

On Surface Works, where the conditions are naturally more favourable, and where a considerable proportion of the natives employed are natives who have been employed on mines and have become acclimatized, the death rate (20.8 per thousand) is, in comparison, low.

The lowest death rate is that among natives employed on Diamond Mines, which during the past year was at the rate of 8.6 per thousand, but it must be remembered that mortality statistics for only the last four months are available, and that, while the death rate has been evaluated as an annual death rate, the statistics on which the evaluation is based cover only a portion of the year, and that during that period, as has been stated, the seasonal conditions were, as compared with the latter months of 1903, exceptionally favourable.

The low death rate on Diamond Mines is also attributable to the fact that the great majority of the natives so employed are recruited locally, 91.53 per cent. being Transvaal natives, amongst whom the death rate, as compared with that of other tribes, is lowest, while only 5.64 are natives from Portuguese Territory, who furnish almost 70 per cent. of the total mine labour supply (exclusive of Diamond Mines), and whose death rate, being 13.87 per cent. above the average, is abnormal.

Territorial Analyses of Mortality on Mines and Works.

The percentage of deaths from each individual disease among natives from Cape Colony, Natal, Zululand, and the Transvaal, and employed on Mines and Works, is in every case—as compared with the ratio borne by them to the total labour supply on Mines and Works—below the average. In the case of natives from Portuguese Territory it is just the reverse and considerably above the average, while among those from British Central Africa it is in nearly every case above the average. (See Appendices Nos. 37 and 38.)*

Respiratory Diseases.—From these diseases, which have been responsible for the large proportion of 55.01 of the total deaths, the natives from Portuguese Territory, British Central Africa, Bechuanaland, and Damaraland, among whom 86.58 per cent. of the total deaths from these diseases have occurred, have suffered most severely.

Meningitis.—It will be observed that almost 90 per cent. of the deaths from this disease occurred amongst natives from Portuguese Territory.

Territorial Analyses of Labour Employed and Mortality from Disease, Comparative.

The figures shown in this return, if studied in connection with Appendices Nos. 37 and 38, go far to convince one—especially if the proportion of deaths from diseases of the respiratory system to the total number of deaths (55.01 per cent.), and the large proportion of natives from the territories most seriously affected by these diseases to the total labour employed on Mines and Works, be considered—that the death rate of natives on the mines is regulated to a great degree by climatic circumstances. (See Appendix No. 39.)

Chart of Mortality.

The chart of mortality practically speaks for itself, but it may be well to draw attention to the chief points brought out by it. (See Appendix No. 29.)

The death rate during the month of July, 1903, was much in excess of that for any other month during the year, and it will be noted that respiratory diseases, and pneumonia especially, are chiefly responsible for this abnormal rate.

It is interesting to note the low death rate from respiratory diseases during the winter months of 1904—a fact which is certainly mainly due, as already pointed out in this report, to extremely mild seasonal conditions.

If the curve of the total mortality and that of the total mortality (exclusive of accidents) be followed the relation of deaths from accidents to the total death rate will be observed.

The death rate from accidents was, as will be seen, exceptional during the month of April, 1904, and is due to the disastrous accident which occurred during that month on the Robinson Deep Gold Mine, in which 43 natives were killed.

The death rate from dysentery and diarrhœa was, as usual, highest during the summer months.

Scurvy during the last five months has died out almost entirely, which may be attributed partly to the more particular examination of recruits and partly to the liberal diet now generally provided.

Strikes on Mines.

There have been 18 strikes on mines, but in no cases were they of any political importance, being generally due to miscalculations on the part of the natives as to the date of termination of their contracts.

Full enquiry was instituted into each case, but in only one was the contention of the natives upheld.

Strict measures are adopted by this Department to maintain discipline on the mines, and in cases where natives have been proved guilty of refusing to work for no sufficient reason they have been fined or remanded to a Magistrate's Court.

The satisfactory state of affairs as regards discipline on the mines is in a large measure due to the firm but just control generally exercised by the authorities and the compound overseers.

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* The figures are printed at pp. 32 and 33.

General Living Conditions and Treatment of Natives on the Mines.

In a memorandum dated 31st March, 1904,* I submitted a report covering a schedule on the subject of the treatment of complaints of natives employed on mines and the improvements effected in their general living conditions since the institution of this Department. As both the documents referred to were compiled so recently I do not propose to again refer to the subject in this report, except to point out that out of 115 mine compounds under the inspection of this Department material improvements have been effected in the past year in 66 compounds and in 47 compound hospitals. Ten compounds and nine compound hospitals are either in course of erection or will shortly be erected.

Natives Recruited in British Central Africa.

Special attention has been given to these natives since their arrival here on the 18th June, 1903.

As has been pointed out in previous reports their condition on arrival has generally been bad, a large proportion of those recruited and contracted for work in the Johannesburg District being scorbutic, while of those in Krugersdorp District 50 per cent. were, upon examination, found to be similarly affected. (See Appendix No. 27.)

Of a total of 925 originally recruited 453 were employed on the mines on the 30th of June, of whom—

305 were employed in Boksburg District.
81 were employed in Germiston District.
67 were employed in Krugersdorp District.

those originally employed in the Johannesburg District having returned home during that month on the completion of their year's contract.

From a personal inspection of these natives, both on arrival and immediately prior to return, I am able to state that at the time of discharge, with the exception of four, they appeared to be in vigorous health, while the muscular development of many was especially striking. A considerable number, however, were found to still have traces of scurvy.

The death rate from disease has been high, but it will be seen that 50 per cent. of the deaths have occurred among natives within three months of their arrival on the mines. The mortality has now decreased considerably, while the health of the natives is fairly good, 21 serious cases being in hospital on June 30th. (See Appendix No. 28.)

Of the 100 deaths which have occurred from disease, 74 were due to pulmonary complaints, while I regret to report that 18 of these natives were killed in the disastrous cage accident, which occurred at the Robinson Deep on April 25th, 1904.

As regards their suitability for mine labour opinions differ, but the general concensus of opinion would appear to be that once they have become accustomed to their work they have proved good workmen, of intelligence above the average, and of physique, which compares well with that of the best of other tribes.

Desertion.

8,573 desertions have been reported, of which 4,595 were among natives employed on mines and works, and 3,978 among natives in other employ, while 2,391 deserters have been recovered.

It may, however, be remarked that a considerable number of natives, especially among those employed elsewhere than on mines, are prematurely reported as deserters, and subsequently return to their employers after involuntary absences due to sickness, or, in some instances, to imprisonment for minor offences. Thus of 4,475 natives reported as deserters in the Johannesburg District upwards of 1,000 voluntarily returned to their employers with a more or less satisfactory explanation of their absence. This was especially the case at the time of the outbreak of bubonic plague in Johannesburg, when it was necessary to isolate all contacts resident at the time in the Coolie Location, of whom a considerable number were natives.

Though the number of unrecovered deserters would appear large, it represents, in reality, a small proportion of the natives employed—4.9 per cent.—which may be regarded as satisfactory.

It will be observed that 6,182 deserters are not accounted for. This large number is due to the lack of arrests of passless or otherwise suspicious natives—a state of affairs which could best be remedied by an increase in the number of native police attached to this Department.

A comparison of the return of desertions with the territorial analysis of natives employed (Appendix 18) shows that the rate of desertion has been above the average among natives from Damaraland, Basutoland, Bechuanaland, and Cape Colony, while among those from Portuguese Territory, Natal, and Zululand, and British Central Africa it is comparatively low. (See Appendix No. 19.)

In connection with the large number of desertions among natives from Cape Colony, it was found that in a number of cases they were enabled to desert and to obtain fresh passports on production of travelling passes fraudulently obtained by their friends at home and sent here to them by post. Upon representations being made to the Cape Government instructions were issued to Magistrates in the native territories to exercise special supervision over the issue of travelling passes to natives, and to satisfy themselves of the *bonâ fides* of applicants for such passes.

* *See* No. 12 in [Cd. 2025.]

On 17th August, 1903, as a preventive measure an officer was specially appointed by this Department and stationed at Springfontein, in the Orange River Colony, to *visé* and stamp the passes of all natives travelling by train from Cape Colony to the Transvaal, and instructions were issued to the various Pass Officers that no natives from that Colony whose passes did not bear such endorsement should be furnished with passports without special investigation being made as to their *bonâ fides*. Owing to the energetic supervision exercised over natives from Cape Colony presenting themselves at Pass Offices, and to the co-operation of the Mining Industry in the matter of furnishing this Department with the finger impressions of deserters, desertions by means of fraudulent passes have decreased.

On 30th November, 1903, as it was found more convenient to inspect the passes of natives travelling by train at Vereeniging, arrangements were made for the withdrawal of the officer at Springfontein, and the work is now performed on the border of this Colony.

The present low rate of desertion may to a certain extent be ascribed to the control exercised by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association on the allotment of labour to the mines, but also in a measure to the well-conceived organisation of the Finger Impression Record Department attached to the Pass Office at Johannesburg and other District Offices, for the efficiency of which much credit is due to its Superintendent, Mr. E. Wilson, who organised and has controlled it since its institution in 1901.

There can be little doubt that the system of taking the finger impressions of all natives convicted in the Native Court, and its successful prosecution, has had a deterrent effect, not only upon deserters but also upon loafers and natives who fail to report themselves within the prescribed period. It is satisfactory to notice that while during August, 1902, 179 convictions were secured for such contraventions, only 23 were secured during June of this year.

I submit the usual return of the work performed by the Finger Impression Record Department, from which it will be seen that 5,637 cases were investigated and 2,369 convictions were secured. (See Appendix No. 24.)

As illustrating the importance of the work of this branch of the Department, it may be mentioned that during the two and a-half years ended 30th June, 1904, 7,558 cases were sent to the Courts through its agency, resulting in—

Convictions against employers	282
Convictions against employés	6,367
Discharges	909
	7,558

The aggregate of the sentences imposed was 6,193 months' imprisonment, or fines amounting to £15,593 7s. 6d., while during this period upwards of 13,000 records of finger prints have been classified and filed in the office.

Town Inspection.

With the increase in the labour supply in the town of Johannesburg—from 113 registered employers of over 20 labourers, employing 9,861 natives, to 160 such employers, employing 12,710 natives—the work of this branch has increased accordingly, while the outbreak of bubonic plague—much of the work in connection with which, especially as regards the disposal of the 1,500 native contacts, was carried out by the Town Inspector—has added to the demands which have been made upon that officer and his staff of one assistant and five native police.

Under the circumstances the results have been most creditable, and are chiefly due to the unflagging energy of Mr. Walker, the Town Inspector, who, assisted by his own or in conjunction with the Town Police, who have frequently been placed at our disposal by the courtesy of the Commissioner of Police, has successfully carried out a number of raids on the various locations in the vicinity of the town, each of which has contributed its share towards the arrests recorded in that portion of this report dealing with crime, and the Kaffir beer and other liquor which has been destroyed or seized through the agency of this Department.

As a consequence of these raids an improvement in the condition of a number of locations has to be recorded.

During the year, 2,002 cases were investigated by the Town Inspector, of which 311 were summarily disposed of by that officer, 720 were remitted to the Native Court through the Finger Impression Record Department and are included in the return of that Department, and 971 were referred to the Inspectors on Mines for disposal.

Fifty-seven disputes between employers and their native employés were settled, and 1,726 inspections of compounds, locations, and other places inhabited by natives were carried out.

Summary of Transactions.

The issue of passports, monthly passes, and travelling passes involves much detail work owing to the necessity of recording full particulars of the native, his place of residence, and contract, all of which are essential to enable him to be traced if required. Such complete registration is found to be especially necessary in connection with the administration of the estates of deceased natives and the tracing of their next-of-kin.

I have already recorded the opinion that the key to the effective control of the large number of natives employed in the Labour Districts of the Transvaal is their accurate initial registration

and the preservation of carefully compiled statistical records of their movements. Attention to details is therefore inevitable and indispensable in the face of the necessity of maintaining proper control over the natives employed.

Up to 30th June 192,614 passports had been issued, involving in each instance the entry into official registers of the particulars inserted on passports.

Similarly, much care and attention is necessary in the issue of monthly passes, of which 1,609,814 have been issued, revenue to the amount of £157,999 8s. being collected under this head.

As precautions are taken to prevent the issue of a monthly pass without the Issuing Officer being first satisfied as to the *bonâ fides* of the applicant and that no arrear fees remain unpaid, it will be understood that this work alone necessitates the employment of a large clerical staff to enable the Department to cope with the number of natives employed.

The practice of carefully scrutinizing each native's pass prior to the issue of a fresh one is not only of assistance in the administration of the Pass Law, but has resulted in the collection of arrear fees during the period amounting to upwards of £2,000.

Travelling passes are similarly dealt with to guard against desertion and other evasions of the Pass Law. 159,282 travelling passes were issued, with a collection of revenue under this head of £7,958 18s.

It may be remarked that the total revenue collection of £180,699 14s. has been made almost entirely in sums of 1s. and 2s., each transaction involving a certain amount of detail work and attention, and that since 1st July, 1903, 2,068,689 separate transactions were effected at Pass Offices in Labour Districts.

Revenue.

The total amount of revenue collected during the period under report was £180,699 14s., being an increase of £50,930 2s. 3d. over the joint collection of the Chief Inspector and the Controller of Passports (prior to the amalgamation of these two Branches of the Department) during the financial year 1902-3.

This increase of revenue is due chiefly to the influx of natives during the year—the population of adult males holding passports in Labour Districts having increased from 116,913 on July 27th, 1903, to 133,283 on the 30th June, 1904, while during the month of March it was as high as 142,962.

It will be seen that more than half this sum was collected in Johannesburg District, and that nearly the whole of it was derived from the issue of native passes and certificates, less than £3,000 having been derived from other sources. (See Appendix No. 43.)

The minimum revenue collection in any one month was £13,982 19s. 6d., in July, 1903, when the population was lowest. The maximum, £15,819 14s., in March, when the population was at its highest. Since March, it will be observed, the revenue has steadily decreased, which is consequent upon the exodus of natives during the last few months. It is customary during these months for a considerable number of natives to return home for the purpose of attending to their crops and escaping the severe winter here, and it is doubtful whether any political significance need be attached to their extensive exodus this year. (See Appendix No. 44.)

It may be noted that the revenue from the Deposit and Remittance Agency has been shown only for the period July 1st to September 30th, that Agency having been placed under your direct control on October 1st.

S. M. Pritchard,
Pass Commissioner,
Native Affairs Department.

Johannesburg, 1st August, 1904.

APPENDIX NO. XXVII.—NATIVES FROM BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.

District.	No. brought into District.	No. admitted to Hospital.	No. sent home.	No. of Deaths.							Desertions.	No. Employed, 30th June, 1904.				Remarks.
				Accidents.	Pneumonia.	Other Pulmonary Diseases.	Diarrhœa and Dysentery.	Malaria.	Other Causes.	Total.		Working.	In Hospital.		Total.	
													Slight Ailments.	Serious Cases.		
Johannesburg ..	385	216	321	18	33	..	10	..	3	61	..	..	..	..	..	Five sent home to recruit others: 114 physically unfit. Condition on arrival bad, majority scorbutic; remainder returned home on expiration of their contracts.
Krugersdorp ..	88	27	13	..	6	..	..	2	..	8	..	67	..	..	67	On arrival, 50 per cent. were scorbutic, remainder in good condition; 10 sent home to recruit others, 2 owing to illness, and 1 in charge of sick natives.
Boksburg	345	352	10	..	20	4	2	..	4	30	..	276	13	16	305	Condition on arrival apparently good, but many had colds: 10 sent home to recruit others.
Germiston	107	56	10	..	11	..	1	..	4	16	..	73	3	5	81	Condition on arrival good; 10 sent home to recruit others.
Total	925	651	354	18	70	4	13	2	11	118	..	416	16	21	453	

APPENDIX No. III.

REPORT (PART II.) OF THE GOVERNMENT MINING ENGINEER, JOHANNESBURG, FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1904.

Office of the Government Mining Engineer,
Johannesburg, September, 1904.

The Acting Commissioner of Mines, Johannesburg.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to present Part II. of my Report for the year ended ended 30th June, 1904.

This Volume deals with the following subjects :—

1. Labour and Wages.
2. Mineral Output.*
3. Machinery.*
4. Explosives and Stores.*
5. Technical Examinations.*
6. General.*

The following Appendices are also attached :—

"A."—REPORT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BENCHMARKS ALONG THE OUTCROP OF THE MAIN REEF SERIES.*

"B."—REPORTS ON THE ACCIDENT AT THE ROBINSON DEEP MINE.*

SECTION I.

LABOUR AND WAGES.

Labour.

Number Employed.—The following table shows the total number of persons employed in the Mines and Works of the Transvaal as at June 30th, 1904, and enables a comparison to be drawn between these figures and those for the corresponding period in the preceding year :—

Description of Mines and Works.	30th June, 1904.			30th June, 1903.		
	Whites.	Natives.	Chinese.	Whites.	Natives.	Chinese.
Gold Producing—						
Gold Mines	13,413	74,632	1,004	11,825	66,221	—
Metallurgical and Chemical Works	23	126	—	126	360	—
Tailings Syndicates	6	32	—	5	51	
Alluvial and Gold Workings	5	31	—	1	22	—
Coal Mines	485	8,858	—	433	8,468	—
Diamond Mines	251	2,289	—	107	780	—
Tin Mines	4	54	—	—	—	—
Lead Mines	13	110	—	—	—	—
Cobalt Mines	2	32	—	—	—	—
Copper Mines	7	50	—	—	—	—
Other Mines and Works	251	2,353	—	254	1,892	—
Totals	14,460	88,567	1,004	12,751	77,794	—

The *number of employees* on the producing, as compared with the non-producing, Gold Mines of the Transvaal is as follows :—

Date.	Gold Mines.				
	Producing.		Non-Producing.		
	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Chinese.
June 30, 1904	10,671	65,542	2,742	9,090	1,004
June 30, 1903	8,286	51,594	3,539	14,627	—
Increase	2,385	13,948	—	—	1,004
Decrease	—	—	797	5,537	—

* Not printed here.

while the *proportion of labour* employed on producing, as compared with non-producing Mines is as under :—

Date.	Ratios.			
	White employees on		Coloured and Chinese on	
	Producing Mines.	Non-producing Mines.	Producing Mines.	Non-producing Mines.
June 30, 1904	3·89 : 1		6·49 : 1	
June 30, 1903	2·34 : 1		3·53 : 1	

showing that the labour continues to be concentrated on the producing mines.

The Witwatersrand area accounts for 92 per cent. of the total labour employed by the Gold Mining Industry of the Colony.

The ratio of white to coloured persons employed in the Gold Mines of the Witwatersrand from July, 1899, to June, 1904, is as follows :—

Date.	Whites.	Coloured.
July, 1899	1 :	8·578
June, 1902	1 :	4·343
June, 1903	1 :	5·383
June, 1904 (including Chinese)	1 :	5·434

Outside Districts.

The following table gives the labour employed by the Gold Mining Industry in districts outside the Witwatersand area on June 30th, 1904 :—

District.	Date.	Producing Mines.		Non-Producing Mines.	
		Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.
Barberton, Lydenburg and Pietersburg	June 30/04	330	3,378	123	931
	June 30/03	296	3,311	86	674
Increase	—	34	67	37	257
Heidelberg Magisterial District	June 30/04	89	1,045	67	538
	June 30/03	74	736	121	883
Increase	—	15	309	—	—
Decrease	—	—	—	54	345
Potchefstroom Magisterial District (including Klerksdorp)	June 30/04	23	241	51	325
	June 30/03	30	291	31	126
Increase	—	—	—	20	199
Decrease	—	7	50	—	—

Coloured Labour at Work.—The number of coloured persons (*including Chinese*) in the *service* of the Gold Mining Companies of the Transvaal and their contractors on the last full working day of each month as compared with the number actually *at work*, is as follows :—

Month.	In the employ of the Companies, &c.	Actually at work.	Percentage working.	Percentage non-efficient.
1903.				
July	68,217	61,780	90·56	9·44
August	69,688	62,705	89·98	10·02
September	70,255	62,815	89·41	10·59
October	71,659	64,968	90·66	9·34
November	72,748	65,311	89·78	10·22
December	73,622	67,396	91·54	8·46
1904.				
January	75,027	69,159	92·18	7·82
February	77,899	72,177	92·65	7·35
March	79,569	73,667	92·58	7·42
April	78,835	73,256	92·92	7·08
May	77,519	71,431	92·15	7·85
June	75,636	70,334	92·99	7·01
Average	74,223	67,917	91·50	8·50
Average for previous year	48,653	43,875	90·18	9·82

showing that the percentage of non-efficients, owing to sickness and other causes, is on the decrease.

Coloured Convicts.—During the past year a few mines in the Witwatersrand area employed coloured convicts, the experiment being made because of the shortness in the supply of free unskilled coloured labour.

COLLIERIES.

An increase is noticeable in the labour employed by producing collieries, but the decrease in those which are non-producing brings the average total labour to approximately the same as last year, as will be seen by the following table :—

Month.	Producing.		Non-Producing.		Total.	
	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.
June, 1904	462	8,770	23	88	485	8,858
June, 1903	362	7,657	71	811	433	8,468
Increase	100	1,113	—	—	52	390
Decrease	—	—	48	723	—	—

Coal Areas.—The following table shows how this labour is distributed over the different coal areas :—

Month.	Springs-Brakpan.		Middelburg.		Other Districts.	
	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.	Whites.	Coloured.
June, 1904	183	3,582	221	4,082	81	1,194
June, 1903	183	3,990	162	3,330	88	1,148
Increase	—	—	59	752	—	46
Decrease	—	408	—	—	7	—

Natives at Work.—The following figures afford a comparison between the number of coloured persons *in the service of* and those *actually at work* in the collieries of the Transvaal :—

Month.	In the employ of Companies, &c.	Actually at Work.	Percentage working.	Percentage Non-efficient.
1903.				
July	9,008	7,814	86·75	13·25
August	9,233	8,154	88·31	11·69
September	9,489	8,379	89·30	10·70
October	9,307	8,050	86·49	13·51
November	8,767	7,626	86·99	13·01
December	8,623	7,703	89·33	10·67
1904.				
January	8,618	7,787	90·36	9·64
February	8,550	7,889	92·27	7·73
March	8,758	7,942	90·68	9·32
April	8,838	8,117	91·84	8·16
May	8,823	8,017	90·86	9·34
June	8,858	8,331	94·05	5·95
Average	8,906	7,984	89·65	10·35
Average for previous year... ...	7,261	6,374	87·78	12·22

Diamond Mines.

Coloured labour returns from the Diamond Mines are as follows ; the figures given however, do not include a small number of persons employed in the alluvial diggings at Christiana :—

Month.	In the Employ of Companies, &c.	Actually at Work.	Percentage Working.	Percentage Non-efficient.
1903.				
July	1,123	1,086	96·72	3·28
August	1,394	1,269	91·03	8·97
September	1,543	1,446	93·71	6·29
October	1,623	1,430	88·11	11·89
November	1,366	1,189	87·04	12·96
December	1,318	1,213	92·03	7·97
1904.				
January	1,566	1,426	91·06	8·94
February	1,960	1,746	89·08	10·92
March	2,233	1,975	88·45	11·55
April	2,376	2,207	92·89	7·11
May	2,548	2,169	85·13	14·87
June	2,289	1,992	87·02	12·98
Average	1,779	1,596	89·71	10·29

The large increase in the number of employés in June, 1904, as compared with the previous year, is almost entirely due to the extended operations of the Premier Diamond Company.

Metallurgical and Chemical Works.

Labour Decrease.—This year's statistics show a material decrease in the number of persons employed in Metallurgical and Chemical Works, the principal reason for this being the closing down of the Rand Central Ore Reduction Company. It is not expected that the figures under this heading will show much increase in the near future.

Month.	Whites.	Coloured.
June, 1904	23	126
June, 1903	126	360

Natives.

Native Labour Supply.—The supply of unskilled labour has been most unsatisfactory throughout the year, in spite of the efforts of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association and the additional comforts and attractions afforded to natives. The total increase, as shown by the returns to this Department, for the year was only 10,312; the number of natives employed on the 30th June, 1904, being 86,214, as against 75,902 on the 30th June, 1903.

Increased Wages.—It was supposed that the lower rate of wages paid to natives since the war accounted to some extent for their unwillingness to volunteer for work in the mines. In January, 1903, therefore, the Chamber of Mines resolved to revert to the pre-war schedule of pay, and the Association was authorised to recruit natives at a minimum of 45*s.* per month. In April the rate was again increased to 50*s.* for surface labourers and 60*s.* for underground labourers. It has been found, however, that this does not have the desired effect, for as soon as the Kaffir has accumulated a certain amount of money he returns to his kraal to live in idleness, so that the higher the wages the longer the periods of idleness.

Recruiting Efforts.—On the 31st December, 1903, according to the report of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, the mining groups were employing about 38 per cent. of their respective complements. The Association has made attempts to recruit labour in Rhodesia, German East Africa, British East Africa and Uganda, Portuguese West Africa, Congo Free State, West Africa, and, in fact, all possible sources, but so far as regards the Continent of Africa, they have met with very little success.

Native Labour Commission.—As mentioned in last year's Report, a Commission was appointed by His Excellency the High Commissioner to enquire into the matter of the unskilled labour supply. The report of this Commission bears date the 19th November, 1903, and the finding is that:—

> "(2) The demand for native labour for the Transvaal Mining Industry is in excess of the present supply by about 129,000 labourers, and . . . . it is estimated that the mines of the Witwatersrand alone will require within the next five years an additional supply of 196,000 labourers.
>
> "(4) That there is no adequate supply of labour in Central and Southern Africa to meet the above requirements."

Chinese Labour.—During the year 1903 a mission was sent to China to enquire into the supply of labour available from different sources in that country, and, the report of this mission being favourable, negotiations were entered into, and an Ordinance (No. 17 of 1904) was introduced and passed to regulate the introduction into the Transvaal of unskilled non-European labourers.

The first shipment of slightly over 1,000 Chinamen reached this country towards the end of June in the present year. It is, of course, too early to make a definite statement with regard to the efficiency of these men, but up to the present they are spoken well of by their employers, and are said to compare very favourably with the Kaffirs. One great advantage of the employment of Chinamen is that they can be indentured for a period of three years, on the expiration of which the contract may be renewed for a further period or periods not exceeding three years. Kaffirs, on the other hand, cannot be bound by contract for more than a year, and many of them refuse to contract for more than three or four months, at the end of which time, just when they are becoming efficient, their contract is terminated and they return to their homes.

Alien Natives.—While on the subject of alien labour, it may be stated that about eighty-five per cent. of the Kaffirs employed during the last year belong to foreign territory. Only fifteen per cent. of the total number were British Africans.

Additional Labour Necessary.—With regard to future operations, it will be necessary to secure large further supplies of labour owing to the fact that the interest and amortisation on the capital necessary to develop the deeper mines can only be met by much larger Battery Equipment than in the case of the outcrop mines and the first row of deep levels, and a mine with say 400 stamps must have an enormous amount of ore blocked out in advance of the mill before operations can be started.

Health of Coloured Employees.—Great efforts have been made to reduce the mortality amongst natives. It has been found that the majority of deaths occur amongst boys who have only been here for a short time, and are due to the condition of health in which they arrive, being emaciated, weak, and scorbutic. No figures are available, however, as to the death rate at the Kraals from which they came, and, considering that all natives who have worked for some time on the mines enjoy, as a rule, good health, and the mortality amongst old boys is low, the death rate, as a matter of fact, may possibly compare favourably with that of the population at home, and it may be that many lives are saved through the natives coming to these fields and being well fed and cared for.

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Shri Brihad Bhartiya Samaj
on 24 February, 2020

Unskilled White Labour.

The employment of unskilled whites has had a fair trial and has, generally speaking, proved unsatisfactory. At present this class of labour is only employed when work has to be done and coloured labour cannot be obtained. The advantages and disadvantages of unskilled white labour are as follows :—

Advantages.—(1) The good men soon rise to a better class of work and supply any shortage of skilled labour that may exist.

(2) Work can be carried on which otherwise would have to stand over owing to the shortage of coloured labour.

Disadvantages.—(1) This class of whites cannot be relied upon to work for any continuous length of time. They throw up their employment at short notice and disorganise the general work of the mine.

(2) The majority take to this employment as a stop gap and cannot or will not do the necessary amount of steady work to successfully compete with coloured labour.

SALARIES AND WAGES.

The total amount paid during the year for salaries and wages by Mines and Works which come under the supervision of this Department was £6,048,335, classified as under :—

FOR	Gold Mines.	Coal Mines.	Diamond Mines.	Metallurgical and Chemical.	Other Mines and Works.	Totals.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Salaries	727,468	58,425	13,680	6,640	—	806,213
Wages to White Workmen	3,727,815	115,984	51,122	11,873	81,347	3,988,141
Wages to Coloured Workmen	1,074,114	102,321	35,765	2,711	39,070	1,253,981
Totals	5,529,397	276,730	100,567	21,224	120,417	6,048,335

White Wages.—The rate of pay earned by European mine employees practically remains unchanged as indicated in Table No. 9.

Native Wages.—The following table, which shows the average monthly wages paid to natives on gold and coal mines, also illustrates the variation in the rate of pay before and since the war. In addition to the monthly wage the employer finds the native in food, housing, medical attendance, hospital, &c., free of charge :—

———	Gold.	Coal.
	s. *d.*	*s.* *d.*
Monthly average rate for 1898	47 1	46 11
Monthly average rate for the Statistical year 1901–02	26 8	34 2
Monthly average rate for the Statistical year 1902–03	33 6	37 2
Monthly average rate for the Statistical year 1903–04	48 10	42 7

Native Food.—The total amount expended by mines and works upon food for their native employees amounted to £515,794 for the past year, of which the gold mines of the Witwatersrand spent £389,245 or 75·5 per cent.

Under an improved system care is taken that vegetables are included in the natives' rations, and large supplies of fresh vegetables are either purchased by the mine, or are grown in plots of ground specially set apart for that purpose.

The total cost of food supplied to mine natives in the Transvaal averages 10*s.* 1·2*d.* per man per month as against 11*s.* 10·4*d.* for the year 1902–3.

	s.	*d.*
On Gold Mines the average was	10	0·082
On Coal Mines the average was	11	0·429
On Diamond Mines the average was	10	9·196
On Metallurgical and Chemical Works, &c.	1	0·050